



The Hon Dr Anthony Lynham MP
Minister for State Development and
Minister for Natural Resources and Mines

Ref CTS 06399/17
eDocs 5384843

3 APR 2017

1 William Street Brisbane
PO Box 15216 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7360
Email sdnrm@ministerial.qld.gov.au
www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au
www.dnrm.qld.gov.au

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for the letter of 1 March 2017, forwarding for response e-petition 2690-17 and paper petition 2719-17 both of which were tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 28 February 2017.

The petitioners propose that the Eudlo Creek Key Resource Area (KRA) 162 near Forest Glen not be added to the State Planning Policy—the site being the subject of a development application for extractive industry (currently being appealed in the Planning and Environment Court). The petitioners suggest that, if the extractive industry development application is refused, the land be revegetated as close as possible to its original state, to be used as an educational nature reserve. It is further suggested that the central location and the biodiversity of the site and nearby Eudlo Creek would provide a valuable learning resource for future generations on the Sunshine Coast.

These petitions raise three inter-related issues raised by extractive resource management which are dealt with by different agencies under Queensland Government legislation—in order: resource planning at the strategic level; the approval process for assessment of a quarry application; and the preservation of valuable natural features.

The strategic planning issue involves the proposed KRA 162 covering the Eudlo Creek sand resource. The Department of Natural Resources and Mines is responsible for identifying and proposing KRAs for inclusion in the mining and extractive resources component of the guideline to the State Planning Policy. The State Planning Policy provides for inclusion of appropriate tools in local planning schemes to allow expression of state interests in accordance with the Sustainable Planning Act 2009.

This component of the State Planning Policy and its associated guideline material are designed to ensure the continued availability of state-significant extractive resources by their identification as KRAs in the State Planning Policy guideline. KRAs are incorporated into planning schemes to achieve protection from incompatible developments.

The proposed Eudlo Creek KRA 162 has been demonstrated by sub-surface testing to contain a sand resource of regional significance and, as a result, its protection from incompatible uses is a state interest. Given the relative scarcity of on-shore sand resources and the evidence of increasing land use pressures throughout South East Queensland, the protection of identified resources is essential for future infrastructure provision; however, the identification of any site as a KRA does not confer any amendment to the process required to obtain approval of an extractive industry.

Approval to develop an extractive industry is managed through the development assessment process mandated by the Sustainable Planning Act, including the capacity to appeal decisions in the Planning and Environment Court. The Sunshine Coast Regional Council refused a development application by Maroochy Sands on 13 October 2016. This decision has been appealed in the Planning and Environment Court by the applicant and is currently in progress; however, the proposal to identify the site as a KRA does not amend any component of the development assessment process, nor does it reduce any standards of environmental management stipulated under the Environmental Protection Act 1994 or the Water Act 2000.

Thus, the third issue raised by the petitioners—namely preservation of conservation and heritage values on the Eudlo Creek site—could be dealt with during future development application processes managed by the relevant local government and environmental agencies. This outcome could be achieved by a well-developed end use plan for extractive industry and could involve local community participation if considered desirable by the local government.

I would be pleased if you would arrange the tabling of this response under Standing Order 125(3). Any enquiries regarding this response can be referred to Mr Paul Woodland, Chief of Staff, on telephone (07) 3719 7360.

Yours sincerely



Dr Anthony Lynham MP
Minister for State Development and
Minister for Natural Resources and Mines