



Hon Andrew Powell MP  
Member for Glass House

Ref CTS 06328/12

18 JUN 2012

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to your letter of 28 May 2012 enclosing a copy of Petition No. 1876-12 lodged in the Queensland Legislative Assembly.

The petition draws to the attention of the House that a number of Queensland residents request that 361 mature koala habitat trees within a proposed housing development site at Lot 8-48 Alma Road (Alma Park Zoo) not be cleared. The residents also request that consideration be given to the possibility of the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection purchasing that land for future koala conservation.

Moreton Bay Regional Council is currently in the process of assessing a development application to subdivide and allow houses to be built on the Alma Road Zoo site. Under the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*, the local government is the assessment manager for the development application at Alma Road and is ultimately responsible for determining the outcome of the application.

The development application was made while the interim *South East Queensland State Planning Regulatory Provisions February 2010* (interim SPRP) was in effect. It was referred to the (then) Department of Local Government and Planning which was the concurrence agency responsible for applying provisions of the interim SPRP to development applications lodged at that time.

In their concurrence agency advice to Council, the Department of Local Government and Planning conditioned the development to comply with provisions of the interim SPRP. One condition states that the applicant must have a Koala Management Plan incorporating a substantial offset for the loss of the 361 mature koala habitat trees. The offset requires that koala habitat trees be replanted at a rate of 1 tree for every 1 metre height of tree lost. This replanting is to occur either onsite, or if this is not possible, offsite.



Queensland  
Government

Minister for Environment  
and Heritage Protection

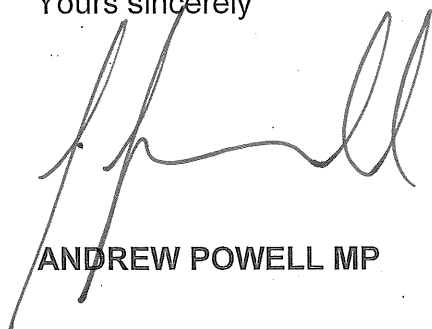
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Moreton Bay Regional Council is required to reflect the Department of Local Government and Planning's conditions in making a final decision on the development application. You can contact Moreton Bay Regional Council for further information regarding this application.

Regarding the possibility of the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection purchasing the Alma Road property, the department will consider this matter. Consideration will be given to the willingness of the owner to sell the property, the price of the property and an assessment of how the property will contribute to protecting koalas and enhancing their habitat.

Should you have any further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact Mr David Gavin, Senior Project Officer of the department on telephone 3330 5363.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Powell', written over a horizontal line.

**ANDREW POWELL MP**