

PO BOX 557,
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Queensland 4285
www.laca.org.au



9th September 2012

Hon. Jeff Seeney MP
Deputy-Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning,
Level 12, Executive Building
100 George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

By email to: thepremier@premiers.qld.gov.au; deputypremier@ministerial.qld.gov.au
Cc Assistant Planning Ian Walker ian.walker@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Dear Deputy-Premier

Re: Amendments to SEQ Regional Plan

The Logan and Albert Conservation Association (LACA) is aware that the Government intends making changes to the Urban footprint boundary as set out in the South East Queensland Regional Plan, which will allow subdivision below the 100ha threshold, and that you have written to the Mayor of Gold Coast City Council requesting information about how the Council will respond to such a change.

LACA does not support this proposal which, if correct, will result in urban sprawl expanding into the Gold Coast Hinterland as well as other areas such as Logan City and Scenic Rim Regional Council, and other rural and rural residential areas in South-east Queensland.

If such a decision was to be made, there would be a subsequent reduction in the valuable habitat that remains in South-east Queensland that currently

- Protects our valuable water catchments, the water quality in those catchments and the condition and water quality of Moreton Bay
- Protects our air quality for SE Queensland
- Provides habitat for flora and fauna in SE Queensland – one of the most threatened bioregions in Queensland
- Protects biodiversity in SE Queensland
- is integral to what Queenslanders and Australians value as part of their recreational assets, amenity and Australian lifestyle to be able to enjoy, live and recreate in the bush and the great outdoors.

In the 1990s, urban planners described the southern suburbs of Browns Plains and Larapinta as the green belt of Brisbane City and stated then, that if actions were not taken to protect green belts around the city of Brisbane and in SE Queensland, that urban sprawl would continue to degrade SE Queensland with negative impacts on the community and the environment. At that time, nothing was done to secure these outer areas of habitat that remained, and these areas have now been almost virtually built out for industrial land, residential development and roads.

The current LNP government has a unique opportunity now to improve the quality of life for the community and environment of SE Queensland for now and the future, by supporting the principles of retaining an urban footprint – to limit the footprint of urban development in SE Queensland to prevent further urban sprawl from occurring in SE Queensland. The current government has the opportunity to support the limiting of urban development to protect the water quality, air quality, environmental assets and lifestyle that all Queenslanders, Australians and overseas tourists value

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about South-east Queensland.

The SEQRP currently identifies an urban footprint which has ample provisions for accommodating population projections, including urban consolidation. We do not support any additional areas being added to the urban footprint as identified in the SEQRP and we do not support continued urban sprawl in SE Queensland at the expense of retaining bushland areas on or off private property regardless of property size.

We also have been informed that the LNP government is considering amending the Koala SPP and we do not support this - unless it is to strengthen protection for koalas and their habitat. The declining population of koalas in Redland Council area has been surveyed and monitored by the State Government's own DERM over the years since 1996. Redlands Council has been one of the most proactive in terms of trialling initiatives to protect the koala over the years. The results of the surveys in Redlands indicated that continuing habitat clearing for infrastructure (roads, powerline easements) and urban and industrial development, resulted in the population decline of koalas, reproduction decline and an increased prevalence of disease in previously healthy populations of koalas .

As you would be aware, any of these changes will have profound consequences not only for the local environment and wildlife, but for the future liveability of south-east Queensland and Queensland communities. We trust that you and the LNP will not endorse any changes that compromise the health and well being of communities and environments in Queensland.

The Logan and Albert Conservation Association requests your earliest response to our concerns raised in this letter.

Yours sincerely



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Since its inception in 1989, LACA has worked with our community, council, industry, and government to develop understanding, commitment and actions for more sustainable living.

LACA aims...

- To play an active role in the protection and enhancement of the environment.*
- To promote the concept of environmental sustainability as an essential criterion of planning for development.*
- To educate and inform the community on all aspects of conservation.*
- To research and report on current and proposed activities likely to affect the local environment.*
- To encourage the widest possible public consultation and informed debate on matters of conservation and environmental importance to the local community.*

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