

Question on Notice
No. 619
Asked on 18 April 2007

QUESTION:

MS NOLAN asked the Minister for Environment and Multiculturalism (Ms Nelson-Carr)—

Will she provide advice on the progress made in protecting the Flinders-Karawatha Green Corridor under the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Environmental Protection Agency and local councils in 2006?

ANSWER:

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to coordinate management of various aspects of the Flinders-Karawatha Green Corridor (the Corridor) was finalised and signed by the Brisbane City Council (Lord Mayor), Ipswich City Council (Mayor), Beaudesert Shire Council (Mayor), Department of Defence (Regional Manager) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (Minister).

The Logan City Council is yet to sign the MoU; however, the Council is supportive of the Partnership and attends committee meetings in an observer role.

The MoU defines the roles and responsibilities of each party and deals with technical aspects such as dispute resolution and future variations to the MoU. The EPA has a number of roles to play in this important co-operative initiative including:

- providing a regional context in relation to biodiversity interests;
- pursuing opportunities for Nature Refuges and Co-ordinated Conservation Agreements in the Corridor;
- supporting trusteeship arrangements for the protected area estate;
- pursuing opportunities for acquisition to the protected area estate; and
- development of conservation plans.

The EPA is also taking a lead role in developing a Strategic Plan for the Partnership.

Initial consultation has occurred with the signatory agencies to determine priorities for delivery of the functions outlined in the MoU. I am pleased to advise that significant common ground exists between the partners as to the future direction of the Partnership.

A first draft of the Strategic Plan should be ready for discussion at the next Steering Committee meeting (June 2007).

The EPA is also providing funding for a research project to be undertaken by the University of Queensland, which will investigate the viability of the Corridor

and make management recommendations. The EPA has also funded the design and production of a brochure promoting Nature Refuge agreements to private landholders within the Corridor.

Many of the broader issues identified by the partner agencies are now being addressed by the Office of Urban Management (OUM), via mechanisms such as the SEQ Regional Plan and the SEQ Regional Outdoor Recreation Strategy. The involvement of OUM has allowed the Corridor partners to focus on more operational issues such as fire and pest management.