

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1497

asked on Thursday, 8 October 2009

MR DOWLING ASKED THE MINISTER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY (MS JONES)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Environmental Protection Agency report on Koala Coast surveys 2005-2006 (August 2007) which stated the 'bushland koala in Redlands can not survive without the urban koala'—

Will the Minister take action to reduce the impact of development in the urban koala areas of the Redlands, Cleveland and Capalaba electorates or will she allow the development pattern as proposed to continue?

ANSWER:

As the former Chairman, Development Assessment Committee of the Redland City Council you would know only too well the impacts of the development decisions your former council has had on the koala population in Redlands.

As a result of these impacts I am sure you would support the urgent action taken by the Queensland Government that includes a new \$15 million package focused on buying new habitat and rehabilitating existing habitat, new planning laws for councils to minimise koala impacts when assessing development applications in key koala areas including the ability to ban dogs in new developments in koala habitat and new planning laws to allow land swaps in and outside the urban footprint for strategic koala habitat corridors.

As I have already stated, the Queensland Government has invested significant resources into protecting land in South-East Queensland that has important koala habitat values. As part of habitat protection measures; more than 87,000 hectares of parks and local government areas have been expanded since December, providing protection for more than 52,000 hectares of koala habitat. In addition, 5 hectares of bushland at Windemere Road, Capalaba, one of the few remaining areas of intact urban bushland containing koala habitat which has recently become an environmental reserve. As you know the protection of this habitat has not been supported by your LNP colleague.

Regardless of the lack of support from your side of politics we will continue to build on our actions including the freeze on the clearing or disposal of State land, the development of a new State Planning Policy for koala conservation, koala-friendly design for all new main road construction and a model local law for councils to regulate dog control.

In addition the South-East Queensland koala habitat values mapping project has been finalised and the development of a the new State Planning Policy for koala

conservation is being fast tracked for completion. When finalised, the planning policies will provide for koala populations in the region to be enhanced through the protection, management and the achievement of a net gain in bushland koala habitat, and for the management of conflict between urban development and koalas to increase koala populations in South-East Queensland.