

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 1714

asked on Tuesday, 10 November 2009

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

QUESTION:

With reference to the declining koala numbers and the recent court ruling in relation to KRA 71:

- (1) Will the Minister support Redlands and Springwood residents in seeking the removal of the extractive industries overlays (policy under the Integrated Planning Act) from Mount Cotton super quarry (KRA 71)?
- (2) Does the government support the ongoing extractive industry in the Koala Coast?

ANSWER:

I refer to the Member's shifting position on Koala protection. One minute he is against our new laws to protect koala habitat, as reported in recent media articles and the next minute he wants to wind back planning instruments saying he is supporting koala conservation.

State Planning Policy 2/07: Protection of Extractive Resources was introduced to manage development around key resources of quarry materials of strategic importance to a wider region.

The aim of the policy is to minimise land use conflict between extractive resource development and residential development, in other words, it is a planning policy.

The policy carries no inherent or implied approval whatsoever to carry out extraction activities, such as a quarry.

Land use planning, including planning of quarry precincts, is largely a local government responsibility as part of the town planning process.

Quarry approval processes are primarily the responsibility of local government, with some State agencies such as the Department of Environment and Resource Management may have roles as "referral agencies" under the Integrated Development Assessment System of the *Integrated Planning Act 1997*. However, the local government authority remains the decision maker.

The Queensland Government has a strong commitment to protecting koalas. My colleague, The Honourable Stirling Hinchliffe MP, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning and I have recently introduced a package of measures which includes a proposed State Planning Policy. This proposes unprecedented planning and development assessment requirements for koala conservation, including for quarrying activities.

These planning instruments regulate, but do not preclude extractive industry. However where these activities do occur, they are subject to strict controls to avoid and minimise any habitat impacts, and offset unavoidable impacts. In addition, such developments will be required to stage operations to minimise impacts on habitat, protect individual koalas during operations and rehabilitate any vegetation cleared or disturbed.

This is in stark contrast to the opposition who made no moves whatsoever to protect koalas during the last election and would not rule out clearing koala habitat for trail bike use.

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.

This is part of a package of measures the Queensland Government is implementing to conserve koalas, including:

- \$15 million to buy new habitat and rehabilitate existing habitat;
- compulsory acquisition powers for koala habitat outside the urban footprint;
- new planning laws for councils to minimise koala impacts when assessing development applications in key koala areas;
- new controls for councils 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.

I am pleased to inform you that more than 52,000 hectares of koala habitat for conservation as protected areas have been secured in south east Queensland just this year. An additional 900 hectares of land in Thornlands and southern Redland Bay that had been earmarked for future development, has been protected.