

Department of Environment and Resource Management
MINISTERIAL BRIEFING NOTE

TO: Minister for Environment and Resource Management

Advisor OK
Dated
Approved Not Approved Noted
Further Information required
Minister
Dated 22/2/11

SUBJECT: Mungkan Kandju National Park conversion – Gazettal of Land Trust, advertisement of grantees and regulation of closed roads as transferable

TIMEFRAME

- Approval is required by 22 February 2011 to enable this dealing to be completed by 18 May 2011.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Minister:

- note** that part of the Archer Bend section of Mungkan Kandju National Park was revoked last year in order that it could be granted as Aboriginal land, smaller areas are being revoked to provide for road openings and gravel pits and the balance of the park plus an area of closed, unconstructed roads is to be granted as Aboriginal land and dedicated as Oyala Thumotang National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land) (CYPAL);
- approve** the establishment of the Oyala Thumotang Land Trust (the Land Trust) by gazette notice in accordance with section 83A(1) of the *Aboriginal Land Act 1991* (ALA);
- approve** the advertising of the Minister's intention to appoint grantees of Mungkan Kandju National Park, the land at Archer Bend that was revoked from the park and the area of closed roads, in accordance with section 28A of the ALA;
- note** that in the event that representations are received as a result of the advertising process, no further action will be taken to progress the transfer until those representations are considered and the Minister briefed appropriately.
- approve** that after unconstructed roads have been closed, lots 1 to 4 and 14 to 17 on SP235312 and Lot 1 on SP23507 will be regulated as transferable land in accordance with s12(e) of the ALA;
- note** that Ministerial direction to issue title and appoint grantees for the land will be sought by way of a separate brief after advertisement of the grantees is approved.

BACKGROUND

- These actions are necessary steps towards finalising the Mungkan Kandju dealing, which comprises:
 - transferring 75,854 hectares of land at Archer Bend, which was revoked from the park in December 2010, to the Land Trust as Aboriginal freehold land (a nature refuge will subsequently be declared over part of that area);
 - revoking a further 593 hectares from the park, dedicating 539 hectares of that as road and 54 hectares as a Resources Reserve for gravel extraction for road maintenance;
 - transferring the remaining 379,553 hectares of the park to the Land Trust as Aboriginal freehold land and dedicating it as Oyala Thumotang National Park (CYPAL);
 - closing 908 hectares of unconstructed roads, regulating that land as transferable and including it in the area to be transferred to the Land Trust and dedicated as national park

RECEIVED
MINISTERIAL OFFICE
15 FEB 2011

☐ MINISTER
☐ POL ADV
☐ MEDIA ADV
☐ PARL SEC
☐ ADMIN

Author Name: Deidree Findlay Position: Senior Land Officer Tel No: 4222 5295 Date: 14 February 2011	Cleared by Name: Buzz Symonds Position: Director CYPTRB Tel No: 4222 5269 Name: Andrea Leverington Position: ADG Tel No: 3330 5270	Cleared by Name: Terry Wall Position: Assoc DG Tel No: 3330 6240 Name: Position: Tel No:	Recommended Name: John Bradley Position: Director-General, DERM Tel No: 3330 6298 Date:
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(CYPAL).

- ~~sch3(6)(c)(i) infringe the privileges of Parliament~~ ~~sch3(6)(c)(i) infringe the privileges of Parliament~~ A separate, detailed briefing has been prepared on this issue (see CTS02182/11).
- Section 83A of the ALA provides that the Minister may, before land in the Cape York Peninsula Region is granted under the ALA, establish a land trust for the land by gazette notice. No delegation power exists for this section.
- Gazettal will enable the Oyala Thumotang Land Trust to enter into an Indigenous Management Agreement for the proposed national park (CYPAL) in accordance with section 42AC of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Qld) and s83F of the ALA.
- Advertisement of the Land Trust in accordance with section 28A of the ALA will provide the opportunity for Aboriginal people particularly concerned with the land to make written submissions to the Minister about the proposed appointment of the grantees of the land.
- The proposed draft gazettal notice is at Attachment A.
- The proposed draft advertisement for the grantees is at Attachment B.

CURRENT ISSUES

- To enable the dealing to be finalised by 18 May 2011, approval of this brief is required by 22 February 2011 so that the proposed grantees can be advertised by 26 February 2011.

RESOURCE/IMPLEMENTATION IMPLICATIONS

- ~~sch3(2)(1)(c) Cabinet matter - Budgetary process~~ ~~sch3(2)(1)(c) Cabinet matter - Budgetary process~~
- The proposed actions meet the objectives of the Cape York Peninsula Tenure Resolution Program and the Departmental Strategic Plan in relation to establishing joint management of national parks in the region and granting Indigenous people access to land.

PROPOSED ACTION

- Subject to Ministerial approval being given, Departmental officers will arrange for:
 - gazettal of the Oyala Thumotang Land Trust, in accordance with s83(A)(1) of the ALA (see draft notice at Attachment A);
 - advertisement of the Minister's intention to appoint the grantees, in accordance with s28A of the ALA (see draft advertisement at Attachment B);
 - regulation of areas of closed, unconstructed roads as transferable, in accordance with s12(e) of the ALA.
- Departmental officers will provide a separate brief requesting approval to direct the issue of title and appoint grantees in relation to the land.

OTHER INFORMATION

- *Consultation:* Departmental officers have consulted with the group of Aboriginal people concerned with the land, assisted by Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation, Cape York Land Council and two anthropologists to identify the appropriate grantees. The consultation process confirmed the grantees recommended by the Land Tribunal, or their successors, to be the appropriate grantees. ~~sch3(7) Information subject to legal professional privilege~~ ~~sch3(7) Information subject to legal professional privilege~~
- *Legislation:* Ministerial approval is required under section 83A(1) of the ALA for the establishment of a land trust prior to the grant of land in the Cape York Peninsula Region. Section 28A provides that before appointing grantees under section 28 of the ALA, the Minister must publish notice of the Minister's intention to appoint the grantees in a newspaper or other publication circulating generally to the area in which the land the subject of the deed of grant is situated. Section 12(1)(e) provides that available State land may be declared by regulation to be transferable land.

Author Name: Deidree Findlay Position: Senior Land Officer Tel No: 4222 5295 Date: 14 February 2011	Cleared by Name: Buzz Symonds Position: Director CYPTRB Tel No: 4222 5269 Name: Andrea Leverington Position: ADG QPWS Tel No: 3330 5270	Cleared by Name: Terry Wall Position: Assoc DG Tel No: 3330 6240 Name: Position: Tel No:	Recommended: Name: John Bradley Director-General, DERM Tel No: 3330 6298 Date:
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- *Key Communication Messages: N/A*

MINISTER'S COMMENTS

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment A – Draft gazette notice
- Attachment B – Draft advertisement

RTI DL Release

Author Name: Deldree Findlay Position: Senior Land Officer Tel No: 4222 5295 Date: 14 February 2011	Cleared by Name: Buzz Symonds Position: Director CYPTRB Tel No: 4222 5269	Cleared by Name: Terry Wall Position: Assoc DG Tel No: 3330 6240	Recommended: Name: John Bradley Director-General, DERM Tel No: 3330 6298 Date:
	Name: Andrea Leverington Position: ADG QPWS Tel No: 3330 5270	Name: Position: Tel No:	

Aboriginal Land Act 1991, s28A
Notice of Minister's Intention to Appoint Grantees

The Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy and Minister for Trade, the Honourable Stephen Robertson MP, intends to appoint grantees of land described below.

Description of the land: Mungkan Kandju National Park, State Land that was formerly part of Mungkan Kandju National Park, and State Land that was formerly road reserve surrounded by Mungkan Kandju National Park; Lot 23 on DP241398 and Lots 1, 4, 5 and 22 on DP241397. Mungkan Kandju National Park is in the middle of Cape York Peninsula, north and north-west of the township of Coen.

The name of each proposed grantee: Douglas Ahlers, Stanley Michael Ahlers, Roderick Burke, Agnes Creek, Ann Creek, Daniel DeBusch, Florence Rose Deemal, Lawrence Fruit, Herbert Jerry, Danny Kepple, Eddie Brian Kepple, Katie Ellen Kiss, Desley Koowarta, Lindsay Koowarta, Victor Lawrence, Phillip Port, Herbert Quinkan, Roy Terrence Paul Robertson, Paddy Ross Rokeby, Roderick Ray Rokeby, Brian John Ross, Harold Sandy, Gilbert Savo, Kathleen Shortjoe.

The appointment of the above persons as grantees is proposed to be made pursuant to section 28 of the *Aboriginal Land Act 1991*.

An Aboriginal person particularly concerned with the land may make written representations to the Minister about the proposed appointment.

Written representations may be made to:

Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy and Minister for Trade
C/- Director, Cape York Peninsula Tenure Resolution Branch
Department of Environment and Resource Management
5B Sheridan Street, Cairns Qld 4870; or
PO Box 2066, Cairns Qld 4870

For further information, contact **Deidree Findlay** on **(07) 4222 5295** during office hours.

Written representations must be received by 5:00 pm on 25 March 2011.

(Departmental logo)
Public Notice Requirement

**Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing
MINISTERIAL BRIEFING NOTE**

TO: Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing

Chief of Staff	OK
Dated / /	
Approved Not Approved Noted Further information required	
Minister.....	NFA
Dated / /	

SUBJECT: Mountain biking on Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS)-managed lands

TIMEFRAME

- This brief was requested by Lisa Colyer on Monday 9 July 2012.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Minister:

- note** the range of mountain biking (MTB) opportunities on QPWS-managed estate.
- note** that fire trails and management roads on national parks and forests (subject to a few exceptions as detailed below) are available for MTB but historically have not been promoted.
- note** the current investment by QPWS on infrastructure to provide new and enhanced MTB opportunities.
- note** the partnerships that QPWS has with mountain bike clubs that provides for dedicated MTB trails and 'adopt-a-trail' activities.
- note** that QPWS will develop enhanced online information for MTB opportunities on national parks with a view to promoting improved access.
- note** the opportunity to announce that fire trails and management roads are generally available for MTB; that the Whitsunday Great Walk will now be available for MTB; and that QPWS is actively working with mountain bike clubs to identify new dedicated opportunities.

BACKGROUND/KEY ISSUES

- MTB is an increasingly popular recreation activity since its development in the 1980's. High quality riding opportunities are poorly catered for in Queensland.
- MTB is allowed on fire trails and management roads in national parks, conservation parks and forests, unless prohibited by a regulatory sign.
- Primary demand for MTB trails is concentrated around major coastal urban centres within 10min drive/30min cycle of where people reside.
- Public lands managed by QPWS and local authorities generally provide the best opportunities for MTB.
- Lack of MTB opportunities has led to extensive illegal track networks on public lands, including over 50km of unauthorised trail in Nerang National Park near the Gold Coast.
- A whole of landscape approach to the provision of opportunities is essential and coordination across state, local and other land managers for example water boards has been challenging.

MTB on QPWS-managed lands

- While primary community interest for MTB is for single and multi-use trails catering to riders of low to moderate skill levels, there is also interest in competitive events and commercial tours.

Author Name: Guy Thomas Position: Manager TVS Tel No: 3330 5247 Date: 10 July 2012	Endorsed by Name: Anne Greentree Position: Director Tourism & Visitor Services, Conservation Strategy and Planning, QPWS Tel No: 3330 5273	Endorsed by Name: Annie Moody Position: General Manager Terrestrial Parks, QPWS Tel No: 3330 5268	Recommended: Name: John Glaister Director-General, NPRSR Tel No: 3224 6126 Date:  26/7/12
	Name: Clive Cook Position: General Manager, Conservation Strategy and Planning, QPWS Tel No: 3330 5318	Name: Andrea Leverington Position: Deputy Director-General, QPWS Tel No: 3330 5270	

- MTB touring and longer rides can be provided on the extensive road and trail network available on QPWS lands including the 500km multi-use South East Queensland Horse Trails Network and in areas surrounding Sunshine Coast, Mackay, Townsville and Cairns regional centres and there is an opportunity to work with MTB clubs to develop 'The Top Mountain Bike Rides'.
- Of particular importance are a number of single-use MTB trails provided by QPWS in dedicated hubs at Daisy Hill and Bunyaville Conservation Parks in Brisbane; Nerang National Park (Gold Coast); Parklands Conservation Park and Tewantin National Park (Sunshine Coast); Townsville Common Conservation Park; and Smithfield Conservation Park and Kuranda National Park near Cairns.
- MTB is not permitted on dedicated walking tracks and some roads may have access limits due to safety concerns, user conflict or the need to protect culturally or environmentally sensitive places.
- Active management of MTB is necessary, especially in multi-use areas. There have been a number of serious MTB accidents (including two fatalities) on QPWS areas in recent years.

Economic benefits of MTB and Cycle tourism

- Research in overseas and other Australian jurisdictions demonstrates the economic benefit of 'cycle-tourism' particularly to regional communities. *Victoria' Cycle Tourism Action Plan 2011-2015* estimates that the total expenditure for the year ending December 2010 by visitors that participated in cycling in Victoria was \$ 362 million.
- The estimated total expenditure of cycle tourists in Australia is approximately \$2.4 billion.
- Other jurisdictions have invested in strategies, infrastructure and marketing to foster MTB with a particular focus on providing diverse opportunities.

Key QPWS MTB projects

- The most significant current QPWS partnership is with the Atherton-based Tableland Outdoor Recreation Association (TORA). sch4p4(7)(1)(c) Business/commercial/professional/financial affairs
- QPWS is providing capital funding of \$250k in 2012-13 to support this proposal to develop stage one of the project entailing over 20 kilometres of purpose built mountain bike tracks.
- An additional capital project is also being considered for approximately sch4p4(7)(1)(c) Business/commercial/professional/financial affairs to fund the upgrade of existing MTB trails in the Smithfield Conservation Park and Kuranda National Park. This will support a bid by Events Qld and the Cairns MTB Club for the 2016 World Downhill Championships in Cairns. The estimated economic benefit of the 1996 World Championships in Cairns was \$8 million.
- In the Townsville QPWS is constructing a 14km cross-country mountain bike trail at Cape Pallarenda Conservation Park and the Townsville Town Common that includes 9km of single purpose trail and 5km of shared trail to provide new riding opportunities.
- The "Paluma Push" is a significant regional event managed by Events Qld and this traverses protected areas in the Wet Tropics.
- The draft Conway-Dryander Visitor Strategy includes an action to open the Whitsunday Great Walk to mountain biking on suitable sections. This will be the first Great Walk open to a use other than walking and has been subject to consultation with the local community.
- Further projects are proposed to review and upgrade the existing MTB trail network in high use sites in Daisy Hill Conservation Park, Bunyaville Conservation Park and Nerang National Park.

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	Name: Clive Cook Position: General Manager, Conservation Strategy and Planning, QPWS Tel No: 3330 5318	Name: Andrea Leverington Position: Deputy Director-General, QPWS Tel No: 3330 5270	

QPWS partnerships with MTB community

- QPWS and the Qld Outdoor Recreation Federation (QORF) convened the State-wide Mountain Bike Forum in 2008 to engage with MTB clubs and regional councils. The forum provides a key focus for information sharing, cooperative management and planning between land managers and relevant interest groups.
- QPWS has partnership arrangements in place with a number of MTB clubs including the Townsville Rockwheelers Mountain Bike Club; Cairns Mountain Bike Club; Tableland Outdoor Recreation Association (TORA); Gold Coast Mountain Bike Club and Trailblazers and Bushrangers Mountain Bike Clubs on the Sunshine Coast.
- These partnerships have resulted in 'Adopt-a-trail' arrangements in various parks around the State including Smithfield, Atherton, Parklands, Townsville, Bunyaville, Daisy Hill, Nerang and Tewantin.
- Several Memoranda of Understanding have also been developed with clubs to aid the development of better infrastructure on park; to foster management of activities by the Club; and trail care by clubs through 'Adopt-a-Trail'.

Future opportunities

- The Misty Mountains Trail in North Queensland and a number of other Great Walks, including the Conondale Great Walk, may offer opportunities for mountain biking.
- Development of some high-profile cycle touring routes in areas such as the Atherton Tablelands and Mackay and Sunshine Coast hinterlands could provide good recreation and tourism opportunities.
- Further development and promotion of existing MTB trail hubs in Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Townsville and Cairns.
- Development of new or expanded trail hubs in known high demand areas around the Atherton Tablelands and Rockhampton.
- Promotion of MTB opportunities through dedicated web and printed information, with particular focus on major hubs and touring routes.

MINISTER'S COMMENTS

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CTS No. 09066/13

Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing
MINISTER BRIEFING NOTE

TO: Minister National Parks, Recreation, Sport and
Racing

Chief of Staff	OK
Dated	7 / 2013
Approved	Not Approved
Further information required	Noted
Minister	
Dated	8 / 7 / 13.

SUBJECT: Interim framework for grazing on protected areas

TIMEFRAME

- Noting of this briefing note is non-urgent.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Minister:

- note** that for several months the Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing (NPRSR) has received enquiries from drought affected landholders requesting access to State land. This has included all tenures including State forests, conservation parks, resources reserves and national parks
- note** that following the State Government's decision to support hardship grazing on five national parks for a defined period, NPRSR is working closely with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) to assess applications
- note** that 14 landholders mentioned in correspondence from Mr Robbie Katter MP, Member for Mount Isa of 22 April 2013 have been contacted by NPRSR. To date, NPRSR is assisting and supporting four landholders from this list and also assisting with a number of other enquiries (**Attachment 1**)
- note** that NPRSR and DAFF are progressing the assessment of applications for grazing on the five national parks and National Reserve System (NRS) properties
- sign** the letter of reply to Mr Katter advising of the support being provided by NPRSR to graziers struggling with drought (**Attachment 2**).

BACKGROUND/KEY ISSUES

- On 29 April 2013, the Queensland Government announced drought declarations for 13 local government areas.
- To assist graziers, the Queensland Government announced that it would make five national parks and one national park (Recovery) in the proximity of these areas available for agistment under short-term hardship grazing arrangements.
- The Government will also negotiate temporary hardship grazing over properties purchased by the Queensland Government in conjunction with the Commonwealth Government under the NRS funding arrangements.
- The national parks and NRS properties have been carefully selected on the basis of their previous grazing history, their proximity to graziers in hardship and most importantly, in the case of some of the national parks, the existence of Buffel grass, which is a recognised foreign species.
- A secondary benefit of allowing short-term and carefully managed grazing on these properties will be the reduction in Buffel grass and the attendant reduction of fuel loads which will reduce the impact on fire sensitive species.
- On 21 May 2013, amendments to the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* provide the Chief Executive with the ability to issue grazing authorities up until 31 December 2013, on the five national parks, but in cases of ongoing hardship may be able to be extended on NRS properties. Any grazing arrangements granted over the national parks and NRS properties will follow strict conditions and stocking rates.

Author Name: Mike Gregory Position: A/Business Manager, Operations West Tel No: 3330 6167 Date: 7 June 2013	Endorsed by Name: Jason Jacobi Position: A/Executive Director, Regional Operations West Tel No: 3330 5272 Date: 10 June 2013	Endorsed by Name: Ben Klaassen Position: Deputy Director- General, QPWS Tel No: 3330 5270 Date: 11 June 2013	Recommended Name: John Glaister Position: Director-General, NPRSR Tel No: 3338 9307 Date: 13/6/13
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- The Queensland Government has written to the Commonwealth Government seeking their support for these actions.
- In a letter dated 16 May 2013, the Honourable Tony Burke MP, Commonwealth Minister for Sustainability, Water, Environment, Population and Communities declared his objection to the use of national parks for grazing.
- In a subsequent email of 21 May 2013, Mr Malcolm Thompson of the Commonwealth Department of Sustainability, Water, Environment, Population and Communities (SEWPAC) wrote to the Director General, Dr John Glaister seeking further information on the State's intentions for NRS properties.
- On 24 May 2013, a departmental response was issued to Mr Thompson.
- On 6 June 2013, SEWPAC wrote to NPRSR and alerted the State to the potential for the agistees actions to breach the *Environment, Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth).
- SEWPAC requested that the State provide further advice on its proposal to graze cattle on the national parks and the State is now considering its options.
- NPRSR is now working closely with DAFF to assess applications for access to both national parks and NRS properties, awaiting further advice from SEWPAC.
- Fencing has commenced on Moorrinya National Park and several other properties in close proximity.
- Approximately 40 applications have been received by 7 June 2013. Many applicants are neighbours to the national parks and several applications have been received for Moorrinya National Park alone.
- Further information is being sought from each applicant to inform DAFF deliberations and recommendation as to who should be afforded access and acceptable stocking rates or other permit conditions.
- The Commonwealth may yet choose to notify (refer) the proponent under the *Environment, Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth), should it consider that the "taking" of cattle onto the national park or NRS properties poses a threat to matters of national environmental significance (MNES).
- A "referral" means that the State may be prevented from allowing the grazing, until such time as a full environmental assessment is conducted.
- NPRSR staff are completing a rapid assessment of MNES to identify mitigating measures to reduce the risk of impacts to these values.
- An assessment of the native title status of the relevant national parks indicates that there are no native title impediments to issuing stock grazing permits over these areas.
- DAFF will determine hardship eligibility as well as the groundcover condition and ultimately stocking rates for each property that will provide for short-term hardship agistment grazing.
- It is expected that permits may be issued within the next four weeks, subject to further advice from, or action by the Commonwealth Government.

MINISTER'S COMMENTS

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 – Confidential list of potential hardship grazing leases currently under investigation
- Attachment 2 – Ministerial letter to Mr Robbie Katter MP, Member for Mount Isa

Release
Re-tea

Author Name: Mike Gregory Position: A/Business Manager, Operations West Tel No: 3330 6167 Date: 7 June 2013	Endorsed by Name: Jason Jacobi Position: A/Executive Director, Regional Operations West Tel No: 3330 5272 Date: 10 June 2013	Endorsed by Name: Ben Klaassen Position: Deputy Director- General, QPWS Tel No: 3330 5270 Date: 11 June 2013	Recommended Name: John Glaister Position: Director-General, NPRSR Tel No: 3338 9307 Date:
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ATTACHMENT 2: HARDSHIP GRAZING APPLICATIONS

Red denotes property owners listed in the correspondence from Mr Robbie Katter MP 22 April 2013

#	DATE	NAME	ADDRESS	PARK	COMMENTS	CONTACT MADE
1	14 December 2012	<div> <div>sch4p4(6) Personal information</div> <div> <div>RTI DL Release</div> </div> </div>				
2	27 February 2013					
3	15 March 2013					
4	16 April 2013					
5	17 April 2013					
6	17 April 2013					

#	DATE	NAME	ADDRESS	PARK	COMMENTS	CONTACT MADE
7	22 April 2013	<div>sch4p4(6) Personal information</div> <div>sch4p4(6) Personal information</div> <div>RTI DL Release</div>				
8	22 April 2013					
9	22 April 2013					
10	22 April 2013					
11	22 April 2013					
12	22 April 2013					
13	22 April 2013					

#	DATE	NAME	ADDRESS	PARK	COMMENTS	CONTACT MADE
14	22 April 2013	<div> <div>sch4p4(6) Personal information</div> <div>sch4p4(6) Personal information</div> </div>				
15	22 April 2013					
16	22 April 2013					
17	22 April 2013					
18	22 April 2013					
19	1 May 2013					

#	DATE	NAME	ADDRESS	PARK	COMMENTS	CONTACT MADE
20		<div> <div>sch4p4(6) Personal information</div> <div>sch4p4(6) Personal information</div> </div>				
21						
22	1 May 2013					
23	8 May 2013					

RTI DL Release



Hon Steve Dickson MP
Minister for National Parks, Recreation,
Sport and Racing

Our Ref: CTS 09066/13

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Facsimile +61 7 3012 7725
Email NPRSR@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Mr Robbie Katter MP
Member for Mount Isa
PO Box 1968
MOUNT ISA QLD 4825

Dear Mr Katter

Thank you for your letter of 22 April 2013 making representation on behalf of several graziers of the North and Gulf Country regarding grazing stock on State-owned land.

I am pleased to advise that the Department of National Parks Recreation Sport and Racing (the department) is currently supporting four struggling graziers due to drought conditions on their properties by providing access to graze cattle on protected areas. These arrangements were put in place within three weeks of your original letter and indicate my commitment to supporting this industry. I am also pleased to advise of the department's efforts to personally contact each landholder to discuss their specific needs and to offer solutions.

In response to your interpretation of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (the Act) and its provisions, the Chief Executive may grant a stock grazing permit only for a conservation park or resources reserve. Accordingly, permits to graze cattle on national parks are not normally possible.

However, in response to the growing hardship and dire situation faced by many landholders, and in consideration of the abovementioned legislative constraints, on 21 May 2013, the State passed legislative changes to allow grazing on five national parks and one national park (recovery). This is an unprecedented action in Queensland, but one that I believe is warranted considering the extraordinary situation we find ourselves faced with.

The five national parks selected for the hardship grazing arrangements are Blackbraes National Park, Nairana National Park and Nairana National Park (Recovery), Mazeppa National Park, Moorrinya National Park, and Forest Den National Park - all in the Central Queensland region.

Further to this, I have also written to the Commonwealth Government seeking access to several National Reserve System (NRS) properties, purchased by the previous government under an agreement that they would be converted to national park. Progressing these conversions now when these grazing properties can immediately provide relief seems pointless. I am hopeful that the Commonwealth will see the sense in relaxing the arrangements and making them available once again to support this crisis, at least in the short term.

The national parks and NRS properties have been carefully selected on the basis of their previous grazing history and their proximity to graziers in hardship. A secondary benefit of allowing short-term and carefully managed grazing will be the reduction in Buffel grass, and the attendant reduction of fuel loads that can impact on fire sensitive species. Fencing has already commenced on Moorrinya and Blackbraes National Parks in preparation for the arrival of stock.

These actions will hopefully, in part, provide immediate support to the hardship of many graziers, and unlock more than 50 000 hectares of land for grazing on the national parks and potentially up to 390 000 hectares on NRS properties. These arrangements will only be available for graziers suffering from drought and only for a limited term. Hardship grazing authorities will only be able to be issued up until 31 December 2013 on the five national parks and one national park (recovery), but in cases of ongoing hardship, may be able to be extended on NRS properties. No other national parks will be made available for grazing.

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) has set up a call centre and applications for both the national parks and NRS properties are being received and assessed. All of the landholders mentioned in your correspondence have been contacted and advised of the opportunity. DAFF will now undertake a rapid hardship assessment process which includes obtaining further information from landholders about the health of the cattle, composition of the herd and the numbers of cattle that they are seeking to agist on each national park or NRS property. I am advised that DAFF are working closely with Agforce Queensland on options for Bovine Johne's Disease (BJD) cases and that progress is being made. While BJD cases are being considered for access to the national parks and NRS properties, it is more likely that neighbours will be considered due to the practical issues of stock movement; water supply and management of the cattle.

A decision will then be made on who is to be granted access and offers will be made to the drought affected landholders. The Government intends to provide access as soon as practical to support the Queensland cattle industry and to address this emerging animal welfare issue. As you are well aware, these actions are only a part of a wide range of measures necessary to support the cattle industry in Queensland.

I sincerely hope that these arrangements are soon relieved by spring rains and that the six month arrangements provide the necessary respite. I am advised that the department will consider extensions if necessary on NRS properties subject to Commonwealth approval, but I must be clear that this is not to be viewed as a long-term solution.

I hope this information is of assistance when replying to your constituents. Should you have any further enquiries, please contact Ms Johanna de Winter, Chief of Staff in my office, on telephone (07) 3224 7477.

Yours sincerely



Steve Dickson MP

Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing

CTS No.

09272/12

Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing
MINISTERIAL BRIEFING NOTE

TO: Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing

SUBJECT: Horse riding in national parks

Chief of Staff	OK
Dated 25/7/12	
Approved	Not Approved
Further information required	Noted
Minister	
Dated 26/7/2012	

TIMEFRAME

- Consideration of this briefing note is required as a priority to allow for the timely implementation of recommended actions regarding horse riding in national parks.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Minister:

- note** the information and risks associated with the introduction of horse riding in national parks.

- sch3(3) Executive Council information**

- sch3(2)(1)(a) Cabinet matter - For consideration by Cabinet**

sch4p4(6)

approve the progression of a meeting with key stakeholder groups on 27 July 2012 to identify priority locations and required infrastructure for horse riding in national parks.

- endorse** a review of existing QPWS operational and capital funds to prioritise required infrastructure upgrades.
- approve** the preparation of a media / communications plan to support the announcement of proposed actions.

BACKGROUND

- Horse riding has not been traditionally permitted in most national parks in Australia.
- With no native hard-hoofed fauna in the Australian landscape and key management issues such as erosion and spread of weeds, horse riding has not been considered compatible with protecting areas of high conservation value.
- In addition, the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NCA) requires that national park tenure be managed to preserve an area's natural condition to the greatest possible extent. On this basis horse riding is generally not permitted in national parks.
- The NCA does provide for exceptions, with the chief executive able to give written approval to bring a horse onto a national park. An example of where this has been applied is the Bicentennial National Trail.
- While section 124 (1) of the *Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) Regulation 2006* (NCAPAM) states that live animals cannot be brought into any protected area, section 124(2) makes provision for horses to be ridden in national park (recovery), conservation park and resource reserve on a horse trail. Horses may also be allowed on these tenures under a travelling stock permit, a stock mustering permit or with the chief executive's specific written approval.
- Horse riding is permitted in State forests under sections 4 and 5 of the *Forestry Regulation 1998* and in recreation areas (if consistent with the management principles of the underlying tenure) by regulatory notice and/or written permission under Section 121 of the *Recreation Areas Management Act 2006* (RAM).
- The range of horse riding opportunities currently available across the state within and adjacent to the protected area estate and State forests are outlined in attachment 1.
- This includes the South East Queensland Horse Riding Trail Network (SEQ HTN), with over 500 kilometres of trails traversing forest reserves (often as narrow corridors within areas of national park), State forests and timber reserves, with links to a broader trail network (attachment 2).

Author Name: Position: Tel No: Date:	Endorsed by Name: Position: Tel No:	Endorsed by Name: Position: Tel No:	Recommended: Name: John Glaister Director-General, NPRSR Tel No: 3224 6126 Date:
	Name: Position: Tel No:	Name: Position: Tel No:	

KEY ISSUES

- As part of the government's commitment to increase access to national parks, the opportunity exists to introduce horse riding as a key recreational activity within the national park estate.
- The key issues that need to be considered in allowing horse riding in national parks are outlined below.

Determining appropriate locations for horse riding

- The need for a full assessment of locations to identify potential hazards and user safety risks, impact on other users and likely impacts on areas of high conservation value
- Engagement with horse riding clubs and associations would be required to identify areas that could be suitable or that were previously popular for horse riding.
- Containing horse riding to tracks, multi-use trails and management road networks within national parks would be recommended to provide for operational and management efficiency.
- Allowing horse riding on these formed roads and fire trails in national parks would also bring this activity in line with access provided for other non-motorised activities including mountain biking.

Providing appropriate facilities and infrastructure

- There may be significant direct management costs associated with allowing horse riding on national parks.
- This includes the provision of basic facilities, including access and watering points, horse float parking, camping, gates, signs, trail markers and fences.
- The staged roll-out of areas for horse riding would allow for the costs of infrastructure provision to be managed.

Managing liability and risk

- The need to ensure safety of users, both in the identification of appropriate trails, managing shared use and the ongoing maintenance and management of trails.
- Allowing access to unsuitable or dangerous trails may increase the State's exposure to liability risks.
- The nature and scope of the law of negligence has expanded so that the liability of and compensation paid by public authorities to those that may be injured on public land has increased markedly over the past decade.
- Introducing horse riding into areas where there are established visitor uses needs to be well managed including dealing with conflicting uses.

Environmental impacts

- The potential impacts of horse riding on conservation values of national parks would also need to be considered and appropriately management.
- A staged approach to roll out of horse riding opportunities would allow for environmental and social impacts to be monitored.

sch3(6)(c)(i) Infringe the privileges of Parliament

RECOMMENDATIONS

- sch3(6)(c)(i) Infringe the privileges of Parliament

Author Name: Position: Tel No: Date:	Endorsed by Name: Position: Tel No:	Endorsed by Name: Position: Tel No:	Recommended: Name: John Glaister Director-General, NPRSR Tel No: 3224 6126 Date:
	Name: Position: Tel No:	Name: Position: Tel No:	

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- In progressing this option it is recommended that the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS):
 - sch3(6)(c)(i) Infringe the privileges of Parliament
 - sch3(2)(1)(a) Cabinet matter - For consideration by Cabinet
 - Facilitate a meeting with the Director-General, Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing (NPRSR) and key stakeholder groups including the Australian Trail Horse Riders Association (ATHRA). This meeting is proposed for 27 July 2012 and would aim to identify the priority locations for allowing horse riding on national parks and infrastructure and facilities required to support this activity.
 - Identify indicative costings for operational and capital works required to make infrastructure and facility upgrades for priority locations.
 - Identify operational and capital budgets that can be reprioritised to fund required upgrades.
 - Prepare a media / communications plan for the Minister, to support the announcement of proposed actions.
- Consultation: Terrestrial and Marine, QPWS; Strategy and Policy QPWS

MINISTER'S COMMENTS

Attachments

Attachment 1. Current Horse Riding Opportunities

Attachment 2. South East Queensland Horse Trail Network

sch3(6)(c)(i) Infringe the privileges of Parliament

Author Name: Position: Tel No: Date:	Endorsed by Name: Position: Tel No: Name: Position: Tel No:	Endorsed by Name: Position: Tel No: Name: Position: Tel No:	Recommended: Name: John Glaister Director-General, NPRSR Tel No: 3224 6126 Date:
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Attachment 1. Current Horse Riding Opportunities

SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND

South East Queensland Horse Riding Trail Network (SEQ HTN) trails pass through the following parks and forests:

Gold Coast

- Nerang National Park and Nerang State Forest
- Tamborine National Park

Around and west of Brisbane

- Bunyaville Conservation Park
- D'Aguilar National Park
- Daisy Hill Conservation Park
- Glen Rock Park
- Moggill Conservation Park
- Samford Conservation Park

Sunshine Coast

- Amamoor State Forest and Forest Reserve
- Beerburrum State Forest
- Bellthorpe National Park
- Benarkin State Forest
- Conondale National Park
- Dularcha National Park
- Imbil State Forest
- Jimna State Forest
- Mapleton Forest Reserve
- Parklands Conservation Park
- Tewantin National Park
- Tuan State Forest
- Wongi State Forest
- Yarraman State Forest

CENTRAL QUEENSLAND

Horse riding is permitted in:

- Byfield State Forest
- Cathu State Forest
- Crediton State Forest
- Mia Mia State Forest
- Kroombit Tops National Park

NORTH QUEENSLAND

Horse riding is permitted in:

- Herberton Range Conservation Park
- Kuranda National Park and Mowbray National Park
- Tumoulin State Forest

Attachment 2. South East Queensland Horse Trail Network

- The South East Queensland Horse Riding Trail Network (SEQ HTN) was established in 2009 after extensive consultation on suitable trails and environmental impacts with stakeholder groups, including peak body Queensland representatives from the Australian Trail Horse Riders Association (ATHRA).
- The SEQ HTN includes more than 500 kilometres of trails with opportunities for horse camping within 29 reserves between Gympie and the State's southern border.
- Trails traverse forest reserves (often as narrow corridors within areas of national park), State forests and timber reserves, with links to a broader trail network including approximately 340 kilometres of trails in Queensland's forest plantations and over 470 kilometres of trails on other tenures.
- The SEQ HTN was developed as a part of the SEQ Forest Agreement process where State forests were converted to forest reserve while the future tenure of these areas was considered.
- The SEQ HTN was confined to designated management roads that had a history of horse riding use.
- Under the current approach, the future tenure of the SEQ HTN is being considered as part of a monitoring program currently underway.
- The *Nature Conservation Act 1992* prescribes that the final review by a Scientific Advisory Committee is due by the end of 2025 at which time all SEQ HTN trails will be required to be converted to an appropriate tenure.
- Under the current legislative provisions this would require converting the tenure to conservation park if horse riding was intended to continue.

CTS No 12630/12

Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing
MINISTERIAL BRIEFING NOTE

TO: Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport
and Racing

sch4p4(6) P	
Chief of State	OK
Dated 12 / 9 / 12	
Approved	Not Approved
Further information required	
Minister	
Dated 10 / 9 / 2012	

SUBJECT: Horse Riding in Eumundi Conservation Park

TIMEFRAME

- This briefing note is not urgent.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Minister:

- note** the recent issue regarding horse riding access in Eumundi Conservation Park (ECP) and current action to facilitate improved access for horse riders wishing to access ECP;
- note** the formal policy change to guide state wide implementation is yet to be ratified;
- note** that practical access is being facilitated while policy transition occurs; and
- note** that the specific signs referred to have been removed and other relevant signs are being reviewed in light of the proposed policy position.

BACKGROUND/KEY ISSUES

- Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) was advised that the Sunshine Coast Area Trails and Endurance Riders (SCATER) had planned a trail ride through ECP for Sunday 26 August 2012. The ride was cancelled when recently installed signage identifying where horses are permitted within ECP was observed by SCATER member/s.
- The pictogram signs were installed as part of a sign plan that commenced in November 2011 for ECP. In July this year, a total of 28 pictogram and 14 routed plank signs had been installed within the northern section (the Eumundi section) of ECP. The signs were made and installed by one ranger assisted by the Green Army work crew (who provide labour at no cost to this department).
- The sign plan was developed and the signs installed prior to the Region being advised of the proposed change to policy in relation to horse riding.
- Briefing note CTS10660/12 is awaiting approval which will then formally amend the policy position and subsequently provide regional QPWS operations policy direction of the change in relation to recreational uses of parks and forests. If approved, this will result in a number of changes to signage across the State ie, the removal of pictograms in relation to "no horse" and "no bikes" in areas where these activities may now occur.
- ECP caters for a variety of recreational uses including walking, mountain biking and horse riding, however, until recently, horse riding has been mainly restricted to tracks closely aligned with gazetted roads that traverse the reserve.
- QPWS worked closely with community groups over several years, including;
 - sch4p4(6) Personal info from the Eumundi and District Historical Society regarding improved access for walking and mountain biking, and
 - sch4p4(6) Personal info from the Yandina Creek Progress Association regarding increased access for horse riding. This involvement includes financial contributions by the Eumundi and District Historical Society to promote and better manage the reserve for the local walking and mountain bike fraternity.

Author Name: Stephen Price Position: Operations Manager Tel No: 5459 6110 Date: 28 August 2012	Endorsed by Name: Geoff Brittingham Position: Regional Manager Tel No: 5459 6112	Endorsed by Name: Annie Moody Position: Executive Director Tel No: 3330 5268 Name: Clive Cook Position: A/Deputy Director General Tel No: 3330 5270	Recommended: Name: John Glaister Director-General, NPRSR Tel No: 3224 6126 Date:
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- [sch4p4(6) Personal info] on behalf of the Yandina Creek Progress Association has been particularly critical of planning decisions that limited horse riding access in ECP to a small number of tracks.
- While horse riding is permitted in a conservation park under a regulatory notice pursuant to the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, limiting the extent of horse riding through ECP along gazetted road alignments was consistent with the former government's policy position about activities permitted in South East Queensland Forest Area reserves.
- There has been an investment to cater for horse riding on the Sunshine Coast through the development of the horse trail network on nearby estate including Tewantin National Park and Mapleton National Park.
- In line with the current Government's commitment to increase and promote recreational use of parks, the Sunshine Coast-Burnett Region, QPWS has been assessing existing trail networks with a view to identifying those in respect of which increased access can readily be achieved. Eumundi Conservation Park is an example of an opportunity to promote increased access, including increased horse access along existing established trails. Consultation is yet to take place with key groups such as the Eumundi and District Historical Society in relation to these proposed changes.
- Prior to these considerations, QPWS was implementing a signage plan for Eumundi Conservation Park. This plan aimed to better promote the reserve, improve directional signage and to provide more accurate information regarding existing permitted access. This included the installation of trail directional signage in July that identified trails authorised for walking and mountain bikes in consultation with [sch4p4(6) Personal info] of the Eumundi Historical Society. Pictograms indicating those tracks where horse riding was not permitted were installed.
- ECP has been identified as a site where increased horse access can be readily accommodated and the signage that was recently installed has now been removed.
- Relevant stakeholders will be advised of any decision that allows for greater access to ECP and regulatory signage authorising increased horse access will be reviewed and installed in due course.

MINISTER'S COMMENTS

Author Name: Stephen Price Position: Operations Manager Tel No: 5459 6110 Date: 28 August 2012	Endorsed by Name: Geoff Brittingham Position: Regional Manager Tel No: 5459 6112	Endorsed by Name: Annie Moody Position: Executive Director Tel No: 3330 5268 Name: Clive Cook Position: A/Deputy Director General Tel No: 3330 5270	Recommended: Name: John Glaister Director-General, NPRSR Tel No: 3224 6126 Date:
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Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing
MINISTERIAL BRIEFING NOTE

TO: Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing

SUBJECT: Horse Riding in Conservation Parks and Resource Reserves

Chief of Staff	 OK
Dated	27/01/12
Approved	Not Approved Noted
Further information required	
Minister	
Dated	13/10/12

TIMEFRAME

- Approval of this briefing note is required as a priority to allow for the timely implementation of recommended actions regarding horse riding in conservation parks and resource reserves.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Minister:

- approve** that section 124 of the *Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) Regulation 2006* (the PAM Regulation) be amended to authorise horse riding on designated management tracks and trails in conservation park and resource reserve areas except where otherwise signed;
- approve** that sections 4 and 5 of the *Forestry Regulation 1998* (the Forestry Regulation) be amended to authorise horse riding on designated management tracks and trails in State forests except where otherwise signed;
- approve** in principle the authorisation of regulated access of all horse riding in conservation park and resource reserve areas on designated management tracks and trails state-wide as a staged roll-out until the above amendments can be enacted; and
- approve** in principle the authorisation of regulated access of all horse riding in State forests areas State-wide on designated management tracks and trails as a staged roll-out until the above amendments can be enacted.

BACKGROUND/ KEY ISSUES

- Previous briefs (CTS 07729/12 and 09272/12) are awaiting signoff in the Minister's office on the implications of opening up access to horse riding in national parks.
- These briefs did not address the issues associated with the current management of access to conservation parks, resource reserves and State forests.
- Horse riding is permitted by regulatory notice in conservation parks and resource reserves under section 124(2) of the *PAM Regulation*; and by regulatory notice in State forests under sections 4 and 5 of the *Forestry Regulation*.
- Past management of regulated access to conservation parks, resource reserves and State forests has been a negotiated process between user group, other stakeholders and the department.
- Under the legislation the delegated authority to allow regulated access to these areas is at field ranger level.
- Regulation of horse riding requires signs in situ stipulating the activity, relevant legislation, infringement penalties and the locations in which the activity can be undertaken. This process would need to continue under current legislation.
- The need to place regulatory signs can be removed if sections 124(2) of the *PAM Regulation*; and sections 4 and 5 of the *Forestry Regulation* are amended to authorise horse riding on designated management tracks and trails in conservation park and resource reserve areas except where otherwise signed.
- There will be management costs incurred in some areas that relate to the provision of facilities such as access and watering points, horse float parking, camping, gates, signs, trail markers and fences.

Author Name: Simon Hughes Position: Principal Project Officer Tel No: 3330 5243 Date: 30 August 2012	Endorsed by Name: Anne Greentree Position: Director Tel No: 3330 5273	Endorsed by Name: Clive Cook Position: Executive Director Tel No: 3330 5318	Recommended: Name: John Glaister Director-General, NPRSR Tel No: 3224 6126 Date:
		Name: Annie Moody Position: A/Deputy Dir-General Tel No: 3330 5270	

- The nature and scope of the law of negligence has expanded so that the liability of and compensation paid by public authorities to those that may be injured on public land has increased markedly over the past decade. Restricting access to unsuitable or dangerous trails will decrease the State's exposure to liability risks on trails of this nature.
- Introducing horse riding into areas where there are established visitor uses will be managed with consideration of the potential for conflicting uses.
- The staged roll-out of areas for horse riding by regulation under the current legislation would allow for:
 - the costs of infrastructure provision to be managed;
 - the need to ensure safety of users in identification of appropriate trails and managing shared use; and
 - the ongoing maintenance and management of trails.

Legislative Review

- sch3(6)(c)(i) Infringe the privileges of Parliament
~~sch3(6)(c)(i) Infringe the privileges of Parliament~~

MINISTER'S COMMENTS

Author Name: Simon Hughes Position: Principal Project Officer Tel No: 3330 5243 Date: 30 August 2012	Endorsed by Name: Anne Greentree Position: Director Tel No: 3330 5273	Endorsed by Name: Clive Cook Position: Executive Director Tel No: 3330 5318 Name: Annie Moody Position: A/Deputy Dir-General Tel No: 3330 5270	Recommended: Name: John Glaister Director-General, NPRSR Tel No: 3224 6126 Date:
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CTS 13277/10

- 6 AUG 2010

Department of Environment and Resource Management
MINISTERIAL BRIEFING NOTE

TO: Minister for Climate Change and
Sustainability

Advisor		☐ Ok
Dated	/ /	
	☒ Approved	☐ Not Approved ☐ Noted
	☐ Further information required	
Minister		
Dated	18/8/10	

SUBJECT: Revocation of part of Maria Creek National Park

TIMEFRAME:

Approval is required as soon as possible to meet changing legislative requirements of the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Minister approve action towards revocation of part of Maria Creek National Park (approximately 2.58ha) which contains part of a prawn farm operated by Melivan Pty Ltd.

BACKGROUND

- The prawn farm was constructed prior to the gazettal of the national park and the incursion was not discovered during the declaration process.
- The apparent incursion was identified by a Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI) audit which was undertaken as part of a process to review aquaculture development authorities.
- The existing aquaculture development approval authority held by Melivan Pty Ltd for the prawn farm is due to expire on 31 July 2011 and a new development approval is proposed to be issued by DEEDI under the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*, which will be in perpetuity.
- QPWS met with Melivan and inspected the facility on 27 April 2010 and agreed that an application for revocation of the part of the national park containing the ponds was an appropriate action towards resolving the matter.

CURRENT ISSUES

- Section 32.(1) of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* provides that "the Governor in Council may, by regulation, revoke the dedication of a protected area in whole or part."
- Melivan Pty Ltd has written to QPWS requesting revocation of that part of Maria Creek National Park containing its prawn farm and QPWS has responded with advice that a recommendation for revocation will be made to the Minister.
- Melivan has expressed willingness to meet all associated costs of revocation and has been advised this may include cost of survey and cost of acquiring compensatory land of similar or higher value.

RESOURCE/IMPLEMENTATION IMPLICATIONS

- Nil

PROPOSED ACTION

- Proceed with revocation process
- Advise DEEDI of approval so that it can proceed with aquaculture development authority

<p>Author Name: Doug Wilson Position: Operations Manager Wet Tropics Tel No: 40466692 Date: 16/07/10</p>	<p>Cleared by Name: Wolf Sievers Position: Regional Manager Tel No: 4046 6657 3/8</p> <p>Name: Ross Macleod Position: A/Snr Director, Terrestrial Tel No: 3330 5268 3/8</p>	<p>Cleared by Name: Andrea Leverington Position: Asst DG QPWS Tel No: 3330 5270</p> <p>Name: Terry Wall Position: Associate DG Tel No: 330 6242</p>	<p>Recommended: Name: John Bradley Director-General, DERM Tel No: 3330 6298 Date: 6/8/10</p> <p>E-MAILED JB 6/8/10</p>
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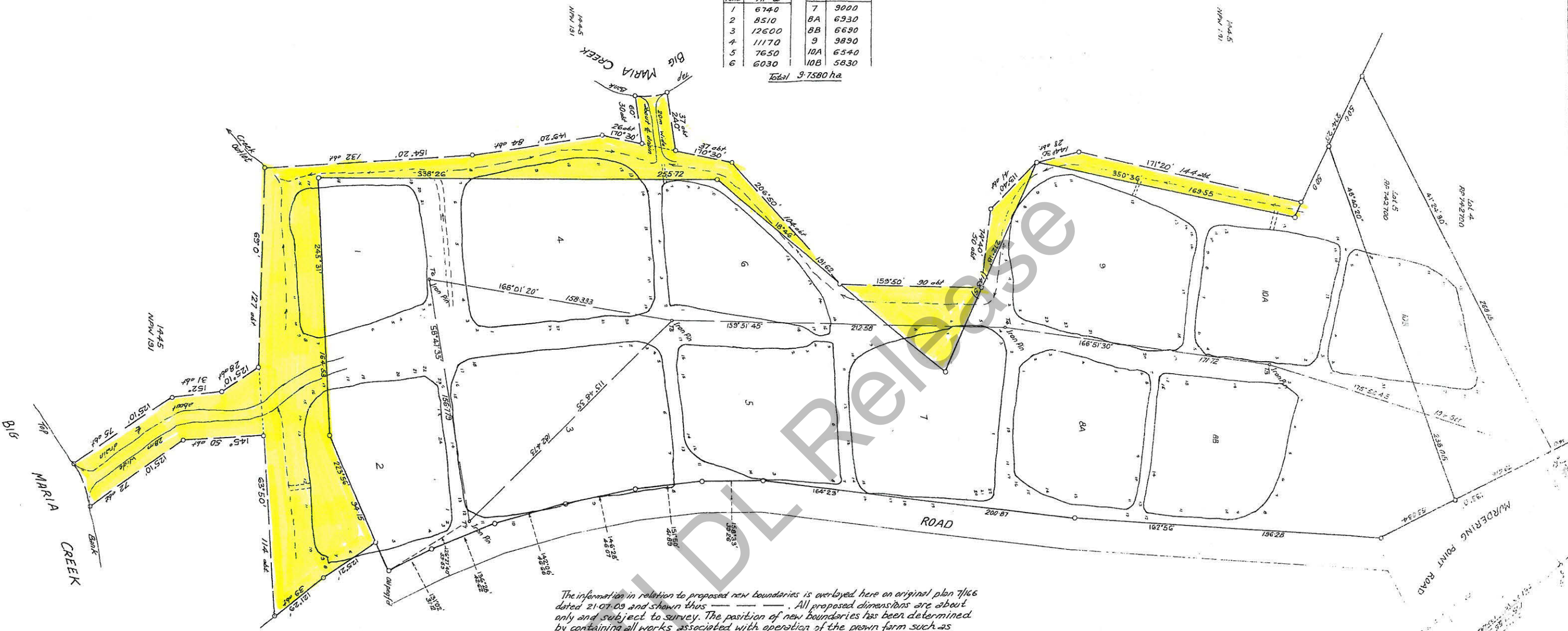
MINISTER'S COMMENTS

ATTACHMENTS

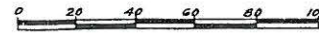
- Sketch outlining area (approximately 2.58 hectares highlighted in yellow) proposed to be revoked from Maria Creek National Park

Author Name: Doug Wilson Position: Operations Manager Wet Tropics Tel No: 40466692 Date: 16/07/10	Cleared by Name: Wolf Sievers Position: Regional Manager Tel No: 4046 6657	Cleared by Name: Andrea Leverington Position: Asst DG QPWS Tel No: 3330 5270	Recommended: Name: John Bradley Director-General, DERM Tel No: 3330 6298 Date:
	Name: Ross Macleod Position: A/Snr Director, Terrestrial Tel No: 3330 5268	Name: Terry Wall Position: Associate DG Tel No: 330 6242	

Production Area		Area	
Pond	Area	Pond	Area
1	6740	7	9000
2	8510	8A	6930
3	12600	8B	6690
4	11170	9	9890
5	7650	10A	6540
6	6030	10B	5630
Total 97580 ha			



The information in relation to proposed new boundaries is overlaid here on original plan 7166 dated 21-07-09 and shown thus ———. All proposed dimensions are about only and subject to survey. The position of new boundaries has been determined by containing all works associated with operation of the prawn farm such as embankments, drains, outlets to Big Maria Creek and access to maintain same. The extra area is about 2.58 ha.



Endeavour Surveys David C Forster Licensed Consulting Surveyor Mole: [redacted]	CLIENT [redacted]	PLAN OF: Prawn Ponds on Lots 546	LEV DATUM: —	SCALE: 1:1000 A1
	LOCATION: [redacted]	RP 742700	ORIGIN: —	SURVY'D: 21-07-09
		Parish Hull	MERIDIAN: RP	DRAWN: 3-08-09
		County Nares	CHECKED: Def	PLAN NO: 71166
			SIGNED: [redacted]	

Department of Environment and Resource Management
MINISTERIAL BRIEFING NOTE

TO: Minister for Environment

SUBJECT: Additions to Great Sandy National Park

Advisor OK
Dated / /
Approved Not Approved Noted
Further information required
Minister
Dated 27/10/11

TIMEFRAME/REQUESTED BY

- This brief was initiated by the Department.
- Noting of this brief is required as soon as possible to allow the necessary steps to be taken to transfer the land to national park tenure by December 2011.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Minister:

- note the issues in respect of proposed transfers of land on Noosa North Shore to national park tenure.

BACKGROUND

- In 1989, the Goss Government committed to greater protection of high conservation values of the Great Sandy region with particular emphasis on stopping logging on Fraser Island and in Cooloola, expanding the areas of national park in the region and seeking World Heritage listing.
- These commitments led to the World Heritage listing of Fraser Island in 1992, an enquiry into land management and other issues in the region Chaired by Tony Fitzgerald QC.
- sch3(2)(1)(a) Cabinet matter - For consideration by Cabinet
- The Cooloola section of the World Heritage nomination was unsuccessful due in large part to unresolved tenure and land management issues present in 1992.
- In 1999, the Beattie Government initiated two audits of State lands between the Maroochy and Noosa Rivers and between the Noosa River and Tin Can Bay. These resulted in recommendations for substantial expansions of Noosa National Park and Great Sandy National Park as well as rationalisation of a range of other tenures in keeping with the GSRMP.
- All of the actions to implement the audits' findings have been taken with the exception of some parcels of land on Inskip Peninsula near Rainbow Beach and on Noosa North Shore.
- The Inskip Peninsula lands are subject to resolution of a Master Planning process which has been delayed pending a Planning and Environment Court appeal of a planning decision in respect of a resort and residential subdivision.
- The Noosa North Shore lands have been delayed largely pending resolution of outstanding issues in respect of continued use of a Reserve for Landing Ground purposes (held by Sunshine Coast Regional Council as trustee) and degazettal of a portion of the existing Great Sandy Resources Reserve to allow for the expansion of a council managed camping ground and to formalise road access to it.
- Then Minister McNamara released the "Strategic Directions for Cooloola" document in 2008 that committed to the declaration of a Recreation Area Management (RAM) area under the *Recreation Areas Management Act 2006* to regulate unrestricted beach camping and vehicle use and recommitted to a World Heritage nomination.
- A RAM area was declared in October 2010 and has been operating successfully. A World Heritage nomination is being prepared to expand the Fraser Island World Heritage Area to include Cooloola.
- One of the ten "Great Walks of Queensland" is located in the area and traverses through the national park.

Author Name: Ross MacLeod Position: Director Partnerships and World Heritage Tel No: 07 33305394 Date: 20/09/2011	Cleared by Name: Andrea Leverington Position: Asst DG QPWS Tel No: 3330 5270 Name: Position: Tel No:	Cleared by Name: Position: Tel No: Name: Dean Ellwood Position: Act Assoc DG OER Tel No: 3330 5628	Recommended: Name: Terry Wall Position: Act Director-General, DERM Tel No: 3330 6240 Date: 1/11/10
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CURRENT ISSUES

- Agreement has not been able to be reached on the tenure framework for the continued use of the existing Noosa North Shore Reserve for Landing Ground purposes despite considerable discussion with the Sunshine Coast Regional Council.
- This is despite the agreement by the previous Noosa Shire Council for the area to be incorporated into national park. The area has high conservation values.
- Agreement has been reached on all other dealings in this area, although there remains other parcels of unallocated State land in the Noosa North Shore that may be included in the national park in the future.
- It is important for the success of a World Heritage nomination for the area that protection of the area's high conservation values and their on going management are demonstrated

sch3(2)(1)(a) Cabinet matter - For consideration by Cabinet
sch3(2)(1)(a) Cabinet matter - For consideration by Cabinet

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- The former Noosa Shire Council supported the inclusion of the Landing Ground Reserve into national park provided the Resources Reserve was revoked to allow the campground to expand.

sch3(6)(c)(i) Infringe the privileges of Parliament

sch3(6)(c)(i) Infringe the privileges of Parliament

RESOURCE/IMPLEMENTATION IMPLICATIONS

- Continued and escalating use of the Reserve for Landing Ground purposes requires ongoing slashing, fire management and maintenance. Maintenance of access tracks also requires ongoing resources.
- Escalating use of the area by aircraft is inconsistent with the surrounding national park and creates noise and amenity issues for the community as well as for wildlife including the rare and endangered ground parrot.
- Failure to resolve tenure and management arrangements in the area could jeopardise the World Heritage nomination.

PROPOSED ACTION

- DERM proceeds to transfer all outstanding parcels of land subject to the Land Audit on Noosa North Shore to national park and revoke the Resources Reserve located on Noosa North Shore to allow expansion of the campground.

OTHER INFORMATION

- The Sunshine Coast Regional Council, some commercial and recreation aircraft users are likely to be unhappy with the transfer of the Reserve for Landing Ground purposes to national park as it will restrict their (incompatible) current use and aspirations for expansion.

Author Name: Ross MacLeod Position: Director Partnerships and World Heritage Tel No: 07 33305394 Date: 20/09/2011	Cleared by Name: Andrea Leverington Position: Asst DG QPWS Tel No: 3330 5270	Cleared by Name: Position: Tel No:	Recommended: Name: Terry Wall Position: Act Director-General, DERM Tel No: 3330 6240 Date:
	Name: Position: Tel No:	Name: Dean Ellwood Position: Act Assoc DG OER Tel No: 3330 5628	

- The Sunshine Coast Regional Council will be supportive of the expansion of the camping ground and will support all other tenure dealings.
- Conservation interests (including Noosa Parks Association) will be supportive as it meets longstanding conservation commitments.
- The broader community is likely to be supportive as it will limit aircraft use and thus noise.

MINISTER'S COMMENTS

Urgent briefing please. - bring maps.

*As requested
at DG
meeting SM.*

RTI DL Release

Author Name: Ross MacLeod Position: Director Partnerships and World Heritage Tel No: 07 33305394 Date: 20/09/2011	Cleared by Name: Andrea Leverington Position: Asst DG QPWS Tel No: 3330 5270	Cleared by Name: Position: Tel No:	Recommended: Name: Terry Wall Position: Act Director-General, DERM Tel No: 3330 6240 Date:
	Name: Position: Tel No:	Name: Dean Ellwood Position: Act Assoc DG OER Tel No: 3330 5628	

File Ref:

CTS No. 17697/12

Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing
MINISTERIAL BRIEFING NOTE

TO: Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing

SUBJECT: Proposed land exchange including the revocation of part of Whetstone State Forest

Chief of State	OK
Dated	10/12/12
Approved	Not Approved
Noted	Further information required
Minister	
Dated	10/12/12

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Minister:

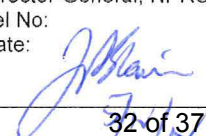
- **approve** in principle that action be initiated to revoke about 993 hectares from Whetstone State Forest, add about 22 hectares of Lot 329 on PH1750 to Whetstone State Forest and add about 4300 hectares of Lot 329 on PH1750 to Wondul Range National Park.

BACKGROUND/KEY ISSUES

- Lot 329 on PH1750 is the subject of a pastoral lease issued to [redacted], expiring on 31 March 2019 (**Attachment 1**).
- In August 2004, the then Department of Natural Resources Mines and Energy (NRME) received an application for the renewal of the lease on Wondul Pastoral Holding (part of the "Kindon" Aggregation).
- As part of the renewal process, NRME submitted a proposal to the then Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that the encroachment areas on the Whetstone State Forest (A,C,D and E) be exchanged for the eastern severance (hachured).
- Through protracted and prolonged negotiations, the EPA and subsequently the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) agreed with the [redacted] to settle the matter through a land swap and boundary consolidation arrangement.
- The lessees ([redacted]) are willing to surrender the eastern severance of the lease for addition to Wondul Range National Park and to rectify the boundary on the balance area (western severance) where areas of the State forest have been previously cleared.
- This proposed land exchange will occur outside the Delbessie Lease renewal process.
- This proposed land exchange will revoke about 993 hectares (areas A, C, D and E on the attached map) and add about 22 hectares (area B on the attached map) to the Whetstone State Forest, and add about 4300 hectares to the Wondul Range National Park.
- Normally, the State would have to pay current market value to acquire land for addition to the protected area estate.
- A valuation indicates that the eastern severance is considered to be an equitable exchange for the encroachment areas on the State forest.
- The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) have advised that harvesting of the State forest is now complete and that the revocation may proceed.

sch3(7) Information subject to legal professional privilege

sch3(7) Information subject to legal professional privilege

Author Name: Rhett Butler Position: Program Coordinator Tel No: 3330 5343 Date: 7 August 2012	Endorsed by Name: Jason Jacobi Position: A/ED Ops West Tel No: (07) 3330 5272 Name: Position: Tel No:	Endorsed by Name: Clive Cook Position: A/DDG, QPWS Tel No (07) 3330 5270 Name: Position: Tel No:	Recommended: Name: John Glaister Director-General, NPRSR Tel No: Date: 
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- The eastern severance of about 4300 hectares has 100% remnant vegetation coverage, almost all of which has a biodiversity status of "not of concern". Under the Brigalow Belt Southern Biodiversity Planning Assessment, the area is assigned "State significance", largely due to its intactness and as part of a relatively large tract of remnant vegetation. The regional ecosystems present are all represented in national parks, although representation is considered to be low. Within the immediate vicinity of the eastern severance there are two Endangered Vulnerable Rare (EVR) species, the Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby *Petrogale penicillata* and Machin's macrozamia *Macrozamia machinii*.
- The proposed acquisition area (eastern severance) is contiguous with existing Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) estate, being surrounded on three sides by national park and State forest.
- Due to the terrain and site accessibility, acquisition of this area will simplify and improve QPWS fire management activities.
- The western severance (revoking about 993 hectares) has been intensively developed and utilised for cropping purposes. Revoking about 993 hectares (and adding about 22 hectares) to the Whetstone State Forest will rectify boundary adjustments for Lot 329 on PH1750.
- The western severance has very low timber, conservation, or recreation values.
- After the survey (or compiled plan) is completed, the Department of Natural Resources and Mines officers will perform a land condition assessment to ascertain the term for the lease renewal.

sch3(2)(1)(a) Cabinet matter - For consideration by Cabinet

sch3(2)(1)(a) Cabinet matter - For consideration by Cabinet

- **Consultation:** DAFF Forest Products, Former DERM Land and Indigenous Services, Lessees, senior QPWS personnel and regional QPWS staff.

MINISTER'S COMMENTS

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 – Map showing scope of proposed state forest revocation and national park addition.

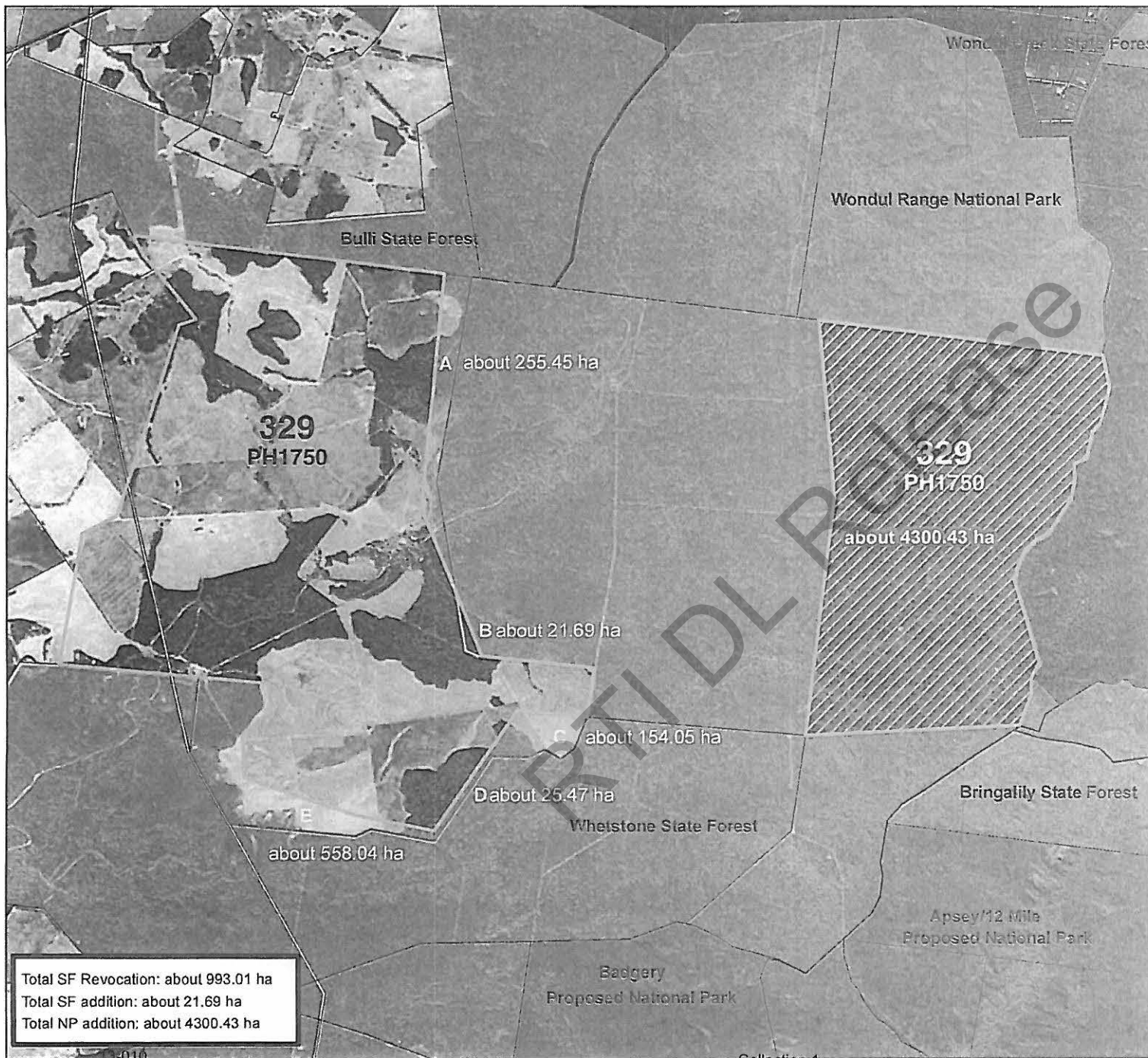
- Attachment 2 – sch3(7) Information subject to legal professional privilege

sch3(7) Information subject to legal professional privilege

- Attachment 3 – sch3(7) Information subject to legal professional privilege

sch3(7) Information subject to legal professional privilege

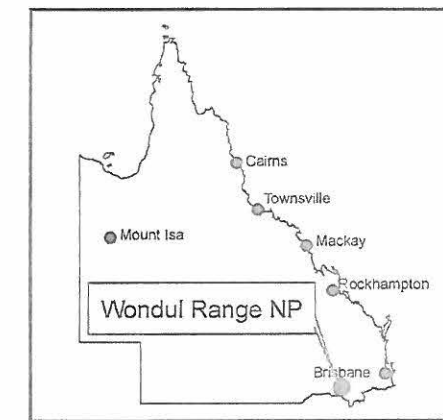
Author Name: Rhett Butler Position: Program Coordinator Tel No: 3330 5343 Date: 7 August 2012	Endorsed by Name: Jason Jacobi Position: A/ED Ops West Tel No: (07) 3330 5272	Endorsed by Name: Clive Cook Position: A/DDG, QPWS Tel No (07) 3330 5270	Recommended: Name: John Glaister Director-General, NPRSR Tel No: Date:
	Name: Position: Tel No:	Name: Position: Tel No:	



Proposed addition to Wondul Range NP and revocation of Whetstone SF

Legend

- Kindon western severance
- Kindon eastern severance for addition to NP
- SF Revocation area A
- Addition to SF area B
- SF Revocation area C
- SF Revocation area D
- SF Revocation area E



0 0.5 1 2 3 4
Kilometers



Map Production
PACTS
Oct 2011, BB

Data Source:
Digital Cadastral Database,
NRW 2007

Disclaimer
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Queensland
Government

Release

36 of 56

Release

Department of Environment and Resource Management
MINISTERIAL BRIEFING NOTE

TO: Minister for Climate Change and
Sustainability

Advisor	OK
Dated	
Approved	Not Approved
Further information required	
Minister	
Dated	

SUBJECT: Beekeeping on South East Forests

REQUESTED BY

- Requested by Minister's Office by 27 October 2010.
- Timeframe not met due to Associate Director General requesting further information.

TIMEFRAME

- MECS due date 27 October 2010

RECOMMENDATION

- It is recommended that the Minister:
- **sign** the letter to Carryn Sullivan MP in response to letter from sch4p4(6) Personal information
- **note** the issues involved in use of existing State Forests for beekeeping as a result of the South East Queensland Forest Transfer Process.

BACKGROUND

- European bees are an introduced animal species and while their effect on maintaining natural communities is not fully documented, it is known that the displacement of native insects from their environment is an impact. Also the commercial use of natural resources within a national park is contrary to the management principles. Apiary permits can be issued on Conservation Parks and Resources Reserve if compatible with the values and management objectives of the protected area in question.
- As part of the South East Queensland Forest Transfer Process (SEQFTP), the impact of the transfer of native forest areas within State Forests to protected areas on the beekeeping industry was assessed. Considerable consultation occurred with the Queensland Beekeepers Association (QBA) (on behalf of the industry) and then Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries to determine the appropriate ways to reduce the impact of the industry and to encourage the use of alternative areas where beekeeping was viable.
- It was approved as part of the SEQFTP stage 1 that existing apiary sites on the Forest Reserves (areas of former State Forest in the stage 1 that were in transition to protected area) would be available for continued apiary activity until 31st December 2024. The *Nature Conservation Act 1992* was amended to allow for apiary permits to be issued on those sites.
- A major proportion of the higher elevation forested areas of South East Queensland which has high value for use by the beekeeping industry is involved in this process. Many of the areas outside of the previous State Forests on private landholdings are relatively inaccessible.
- Transfer of SEQFTP stage 1 Forest Reserves to protected areas is nearing completion and majority of the agreed sites are now subjected to Apiary Permits issued under the *Nature Conservation Regulations*. There are transition arrangements to allow existing Apiary Permits issued under the *Forestry Act 1959* to remain current until expired.

Author Name: Richard Clarkson Position: SCO Tel No: 3330 5205 Date: 24 Oct 2010	Cleared by Name: RD Williams Position: A/Director CMB Tel No: 3330 5512	Cleared by Name: Andrea Leverington Position: ADG Tel No: 3330 5270	Recommended: Name: John Bradley Director-General, DERM Tel No: 3330 6298 Date: E-MAILED 19.11.10
	Name: Wolf Sievers Position: A/GM CSP Tel No: 3330 5275	Name: Terry Wall Position: Assoc DG Tel No: 3330 6240	

- As a result of the cessation of timber harvesting on areas dedicated as Forest Reserve and now transferred to protected area, some of the access roads and tracks have become or are becoming unavailable to be used by the apiarists. This has been discussed previously with QBA. Many of the roads and tracks will only be maintained for fire management purposes and in several cases, existing bridges have deteriorated to such an extent that removal is the only practical alternative. In 2005, a special allocation of almost \$1m over three (3) years helped to extend the life of some of these roads for use by apiarists.
- As a result of the reduction in accessible road and tracks, several apiary sites identified to remain on the newly dedicated protected areas have become unavailable for apiary purposes. To date, the majority of the apiarists affected by this have been able to be relocated to other vacant sites. Further investigations are underway to clarify the available sites.
- QBA have approached Mr Mulherin, Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries to support them in their endeavours to ensure further beekeeping resources are guaranteed for the industry.

CURRENT ISSUES

- Access to DERM managed lands continues to be an issue for the honey bee industry as evidenced by the current Ministerial correspondence.

RESOURCE/IMPLEMENTATION IMPLICATIONS

- There are no resource/implementation implications.

PROPOSED ACTION

Nil

OTHER INFORMATION

- *Consultation:* N/A
- *Legislation:* N/A
- *Key Communication Messages:* N/A

MINISTER'S COMMENTS

ATTACHMENTS

- Correspondence to Member for Pumistone.

Author Name: Richard Clarkson Position: SCO Tel No: 3330 5205 Date: 24 Oct 2010	Cleared by Name: RD Williams Position: A/Director CMB Tel No: 3330 5512	Cleared by Name: Andrea Leverington Position: ADG Tel No: 3330 5270	Recommended: Name: John Bradley Director-General, DERM Tel No: 3330 6298 Date:
	Name: Wolf Sievers Position: A/GM CSP Tel No: 3330 5275	Name: Terry Wall Position: Assoc DG Tel No: 3330 6240	



Hon Kate Jones MP
Member for Ashgrove



**Queensland
Government**

Ref: CTS 18689/10

**Minister for Climate Change
and Sustainability**

13 DEC 2010

Mrs Carryn Sullivan MP
Member for Pumicestone
1/43 Benabrow Avenue
BELLARA QLD 4507

Dear Mrs Sullivan

Thank you for your letter of 4 October 2010 concerning your representations on behalf of ☐
sch4p4(6) Personal information regarding the future of the honey bee industry.

As per my letter dated 30 August 2010, the South East Queensland Forests Agreement has allowed for apiary permits to be continued until 2024 on those areas of former State forests that have or will be converted to national park. The Queensland Government is committed to working with the industry to seek alternative sources of forest suitable for beekeeping.

I trust this information will be helpful in responding to sch4p4(6) Personal information. If any further information is required, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Joshua Cooney, Principal Policy Advisor in my office on telephone 3239 0844.

Yours sincerely


Kate Jones MP
Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability

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