

ACTION SHEET

MINISTER'S OFFICE USE

- ☐ Minister Reply
☒ Chief of Staff Reply
☐ Briefing Note

- ☐ Departmental Response
☐ Department Action
☐ Department Information

☐ Refer to: _____

☐ No Further Action Required

- ☐ Copy to
 ☐ Director-General

Comments:

Signature: NE Date: 9 / 4 / 13

MECU USE

TO: _____ Dept Ref: CTS _____ / _____ Due Date to MECU _____ / _____ / _____

RELATED CORRESPONDENCE: _____

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICER COMMENTS:

Frangi Spilsbury

From: Jon Hanger <jon@endeavourvet.com.au>
Sent: Friday, 5 April 2013 7:55 PM
To: Environment
Subject: wildlife injury and mortality during land-clearing
Attachments: Letter to Enviro Minister - Land clearing impacts on Wildlife 5.4.13.docx

Dear Sir/Madam

Would you please bring to the attention of the Minister, The Hon. Andrew Powell, the attached letter, written by an experienced wildlife spotter catcher and regarding his serious concerns about land-clearing practices for coal seam gas developments and mining. This is a topic that I have raised with the Minister in the recent past.

[redacted] has agreed for his letter to be released to the media as well, which I intend to do.

The national welfare and conservation consequences of poorly managed vegetation clearing are serious and unsustainable. Large enterprises have the resources to properly mitigate serious impacts, and yet do not, because of the lack of appropriate regulation. This must be addressed as a matter of urgency, and to that end, [redacted] has also asked that I approach the 4 Corners program on his behalf. A number of wildlife spotter catchers have been collecting photographs and video footage of injured and killed wildlife, which I am sure they would share with the Minister if required.

I would appreciate your efforts to bring this again to the Minister's attention, and respectfully urge him to take action promptly.

Many thanks

Jon

Jon Hanger BVSc (Hons) BVBlol PhD MACVSc
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Endeavour Veterinary Ecology Pty Ltd
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07174/13

5 April 2013

The Honourable Minister for the Environment,

It has been brought to my attention that currently in Western Queensland, near the township of Dalby, broad scale clearing has commenced using large chains strung between two bulldozers.

The clearing is for a gas pipeline being built for QGC by a pipeline contractor.

As a licensed Fauna Spotter Catcher, employed to mitigate the effects to wildlife on clearing projects throughout Queensland, myself and many of my colleagues hold grave concerns for the welfare of the wildlife impacted by this archaic style of clearing. The speed of which the machinery clears makes it impossible for wildlife to disperse from the rapid destruction of the surrounding bush and the Fauna Spotter Catchers to do their job adequately.

It has been estimated that over 100 million native animals are killed yearly as a result of broad scale clearing. I appreciate that clearing needs to occur, however it is possible to greatly mitigate the mortality rate of wildlife by utilising different clearing practices.

If the public was made more aware of these devastating impacts to wildlife and that there were mechanisms to reduce suffering, I am sure that better practices would be employed. It is no coincidence that these practices occur away from urban centres.

Yours Sincerely

sch4p3(3) Prejudice
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Hon Andrew Powell MP
Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection

Ref CTS 07174/13

2 MAY 2013

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Dear Dr Hanger

Thank you for your email of 5 April 2013 concerning the impact on wildlife of coal seam gas projects' land clearing practices, as highlighted in sch4p3(3) Prejudice the letter. The Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection has asked me to respond on his behalf.

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The Minister hopes this information is of assistance to you. Should you have any further enquiries, please contact Mr Geoff Clare, Executive Director, Nature Conservation Services of the department on telephone 3330 5390.

Yours sincerely

Troy Collings
Chief of Staff