



Recognising and upholding excellence in local government

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6 October 2020

The Honourable Kate Jones MP
Minister for State Development, Tourism and Innovation
Email: statedevelopment@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Dear Minister

As you move into the last weeks of your service as a State Member of Parliament and Minister, we wish to acknowledge and thank you for your service to the State of Queensland and the Queensland community. The writer, when Mayor of Redland City was privileged to have worked with you in your role as Minister for the Environment from 2008-2012. Your work in the Environment Portfolio at that time was very much appreciated.

When one leaves such a position the last actions are often the ones most remembered by the community and will become your legacy.

As we move into caretaker mode for the upcoming State election, the Sunshine Coast community, represented by 6 groups with a combined membership approaching 15,000 and the 2,000 plus petitioners on our Change.org petition, respectfully call on you to refuse the Consolidated Properties consortium's proposal for an intense residential/mixed use development and wave pool on the Maroochy River floodplain at Coolum West.

Making such a decision in the last weeks of your service will leave a positive legacy based on ecological sustainability, the rule of law, community sentiment and will allow the floodplain to do what floodplains are meant to do. Our hope is that your legacy will **not** be one that subjects the Sunshine Coast community to an unsustainable development, much of which is prohibited under the Planning Act 2016 and essentially only catering for an elite few and not the families and locals of the Sunshine Coast.

Should you choose to pander to Consolidated Properties consortium rather than the interests and values of the Sunshine Coast community, (which includes the surfing community and the Sunshine Coast Regional Council), such a decision will leave an unfavourable legacy that will not only disappoint the Sunshine Coast community but also contradict the policies and fundamentals of your previous Ministerial portfolio in the Department of Environment and Science.

A 2019 media release by the current Minister for Environment and Science, The Hon Leeanne Enoch (full copy attached) contains important positive statements which could form part of your legacy, such as:

"Wetlands along the Maroochy River on the Sunshine Coast are set to become a world leading showcase for environmental innovation, after the Palaszczuk Government has formed an Australian-first partnership with Sunshine Coast Council and Unitywater."

"The 'blue carbon' project focuses on the natural floodplain in the river catchment, an area known as the Blue Heart, and will help protect local infrastructure from flooding."

"...Leeanne Enoch said blue carbon - the carbon stored in the plants and soils of wetlands and coastal areas - is a priority for the Palaszczuk Government's \$500 million Land Restoration Fund."

"Blue carbon is a potential new carbon-farming method where Queensland has an advantage" Minister Enoch said.

"We know there are job and economic opportunities in carbon farming; research has shown that Queensland's emerging carbon farming industry could contribute up to \$8 billion to the economy by 2030,

helping to generate new jobs, revenue streams and market opportunities, especially for regional, rural and First Nations communities."

"Minister Enoch said there are many ways in which carbon farming activities can deliver a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and create significant social, cultural and environmental benefits."

Minister Jones, your legacy could also encompass positive statements from our Community 6 advertisement placed in the Coolum Advertiser on Thursday 1 October 2020 as per the link following (full copy attached) and information provided to the community via a number of member websites, such as:

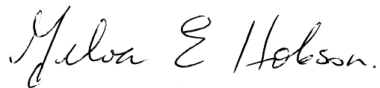
<https://www.oscar.org.au/stop-coolum-west/>

<http://developmentwatch.org.au/wp/index.php/coolum-west-2/>

https://www.scec.org.au/coolum_west

We wish you well in your future endeavours and look forward to being able to acknowledge a decision that will be respected by our children, grandchildren and future generations as advancing ecological sustainability.

Yours sincerely



Melva Hobson PSM
President OSCAR

on behalf of:

- Coolum Residents' Association (CRA) - Mr Ray Barber
- Surfrider Foundation - Mr Steve James
- Development Watch - Ms Lynette Saxton
- Friends of Yaroomba – Mr Daryl Maudsley
- Sunshine Coast Environment Council (SCEC) – Ms Narelle McCarthy
- Organisation of Sunshine Coast Association of Residents (OSCAR) – Ms Melva Hobson



