



Hon Steven Miles MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for State Development, Infrastructure,
Local Government and Planning

Our ref: WR21/9710

Your ref: A667682

21 APR 2021

Mr Neil Laurie
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Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 24 March 2021 regarding petition 3432-20 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 24 March 2021 about the proposed Toondah Harbour development.

I acknowledge the concerns raised by the 4,290 petitioners: being the desire to protect the Moreton Bay Ramsar Wetland and its migratory shorebirds; and for me to either revoke or reduce the boundaries of the Toondah Harbour Priority Development Area (PDA) such that there is no development in the Moreton Bay Ramsar Wetland.

The Queensland Government supports the revitalisation of the Toondah Harbour precinct. However, State support for any development at Toondah Harbour remains dependent upon a rigorous assessment of potential environmental impacts and compliance with statutory approval requirements.

This includes any proposed development being consistent with Australia's obligations as a signatory to the international Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. The Commonwealth Government is responsible for meeting those obligations and the Honourable Sussan Ley MP, Commonwealth Minister for the Environment, is the decision maker, under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

In July 2018, the Commonwealth decided that Walker Group's master plan for the project is a 'controlled action' under the EPBC Act due to potential impacts on 'matters of national environmental significance' (MNES) and an environmental impact statement (EIS) is required. In April 2019, the Commonwealth issued guidelines for the content of the EIS which clearly set out the requirement to accurately describe the existing Ramsar values; undertake a scientific assessment of the likely impacts of the proposed Toondah Harbour development on the Ramsar values of Moreton Bay; and describe how any impacts will be avoided, mitigated or offset. The guidelines also require the EIS to demonstrate how a net benefit will be achieved for the Moreton Bay Ramsar site and other MNES through the implementation of avoidance, mitigation and offset measures in a timely, transparent and scientifically robust manner.

The development proponent, Walker Group, is now preparing the draft EIS. The Commonwealth will invite public submissions on the draft EIS once it decides that the draft EIS adequately addresses the guidelines.

Any formal application related to the Toondah Harbour redevelopment proposed by Walker Group cannot be properly assessed by the State until the Commonwealth has finalised its consideration under the EPBC Act. At this time there has been no development application received by the Queensland Government for any proposal within the Toondah Harbour PDA.

In respect to the EIS process under the EPBC Act, you may wish to raise your concerns by writing to the Commonwealth Minister Ley, Australian Government at PO Box 6022, House of Representatives, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600.

I would like to thank the petitioners for raising this matter with me and I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



STEVEN MILES MP
DEPUTY PREMIER
Minister for State Development, Infrastructure,
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