

1 May 2011

Mr. Stephen Palethorpe
Committee Secretary
Environment and Communications References Committee

By email: ec.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr. Palethorpe,

Re: Doyle Group response to FAIR GO Committee Submission.

We refer to the above response and wish to make the following comments.

1. The FAIR GO Committee as stated in the Doyle Group response is **“interested in protecting koalas” and their habitat**. FAIR GO Committee believes the actions and pattern of behaviour of the Queensland Government with respect to the Southern Freight Rail Corridor shows their real “underlying disregard for the fate of the koala in SEQ”.
2. FAIR GO Committee supports private and profitable enterprises, particularly in these difficult times.
3. The FAIR GO Committee submission did at no time indicate the name of any developer, and yet this submission appears to have hit a nerve with both Mirvac and the Doyle Group. It begs the question ...**WHY?**
4. The Doyle Group response states *“The suggestion of the FAIR GO Committee is that I somehow knew that the final position of a future rail corridor would be on the land that I subsequently purchased. This suggestion is ridiculous.”*

At no stage did the FAIR GO Committee submission infer that the Doyle Group knew of the proposed rail corridor **prior** to its purchase of the “CIP site”.

The FAIR GO Committee submission stated *“Along this corridor there appears to be collusion with developers ahead of the announcement of the SFRC study on October 1 2007....We later found a concept industrial subdivision plan drawn by that developer incorporating the block (CIP site) with the Government’s 2 blocks and **including a rail corridor, dated 2 October 2007, the day after the announcement of the study.**”*

Doyle Group in their response, attached a copy of a letter received from Queensland Transport dated 4 October 2007. (Attachment 2 in their submission). This same letter was received by all landholders affected by the study, and was our first official notification from the Government of the SFRC study.

It is interesting to note that this letter received by the Doyle Group was date stamped “received” on 8 October 2007. Yet their above mentioned drawing of the concept plan was dated 2 October 2007 which included the railway line 6 days before they “received” the letter from Queensland Transport initially announcing the study for the railway line.

The Doyle Group submission states ***“I strongly refute any allegation of Government collusion.”***, and then goes on to say ***“CIP welcomed the news that the preferred route was to be reinvestigated (away from the CIP site)....and a large portion of the site would not be precluded from development.”*** This also includes the Government owned lots included in the concept plan.

The only notice of the change in alignment that all other landholders received was when they received a brochure from the Government entitled ***“Why has the alignment been changed in the Ebenezer/Willowbank area?” This only occurred after the route had been changed.***

It is not the intention of the FAIR GO Committee to “have a go” at the Doyle Group, but we do condemn the Queensland Government for misrepresenting the reason for realigning the corridor as being out of concern for koalas and their habitat,

It was nothing to do
with koalas.

The Doyle Group submission states ***“In respect to the issues of koala and habitat only one ‘off site’ Koala was surveyed through the investigation and no evidence of Koala was identified on the subject site.”*** It also states ***“The CIP site is not a koala site for a habitat or (koala) corridor based on the reports of Orogen Pty Ltd and the State’s own environmental experts.”***

This act by the Queensland Government typifies their hypocritical approach to the protection of this icon and its habitat throughout SEQ, which is why it needs to be given the **“vulnerable”** status.

FAIR GO Committee are prepared to present to the Senate hearing on 19 May 2011.

Yours faithfully,

David Stephen
Chairman
FAIR GO Committee