

18th May 2011



Senator Doug Cameron
Unit 6
5 Raymond Road
Springwood NSW 2777

Dear Senator Cameron

SENATE INQUIRY INTO KOALAS MAY 3rd 2011

As part of my submission to the Senate Inquiry into the protection of Koalas on May 3rd 2011 in Brisbane, I mentioned that I would provide details of instances in which we are aware of developers undertaking actions to address sustainability issues to a significant degree higher than required by government. Fortunately significant data to establish this is available through the environmental rating system, EnviroDevelopment that was developed by UDIA (QLD) and operates nationally.

EnviroDevelopment is a certification and branding system which is designed to encourage developers to create more sustainable developments and strive for environmental best practice. Developers who meet the requirements of the EnviroDevelopment national standards may receive certification in six separate elements – ecosystems, water, energy, waste, materials and community.

To date, 31 developments have received certification under EnviroDevelopment, representing approximately 32,000 new dwellings, over 1,400 hectares of conservation/green space and 104 hectares of industrial space.

To receive certification under the ecosystems element, a developer must show evidence of a detailed scientific assessment, beyond local, state and federal government requirements to identify the areas of greatest ecological value and efforts made to protect and conserve these areas.

Coomera Waters on the Gold Coast is a good example of a certified development which has achieved excellent outcomes for Koalas through the protection of existing and potential Koala habitats. In 2006, Coomera Waters received certification under the ecosystems, water, energy, waste and community elements. Amongst other initiatives, the development set aside in excess of 175 hectares as either open space or as an environmental reserve for the conservation of koalas and a number of other native species.

I am confident that EnviroDevelopment will continue to achieve positive results in this area as we promote the benefits of sustainable development to our members.

I would be pleased to meet with you next time you are in Brisbane to discuss EnviroDevelopment in further detail including the efforts being made to increase conservation areas and the challenges for the future.

Please find enclosed an information kit on the leading edge and world first initiative.

Yours sincerely

Urban Development Institute of Australia (Queensland)



**Brian Stewart
Chief Executive and General Counsel**

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