

Attachment 1. Letter from myself to
Lord Mayor

24/02/2010

The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor Councillor Campbell Newman
GPO Box 2287
Brisbane 4001

My Dear Lord Mayor,

I am writing to request information from both yourself, and my local Councillor Margaret de Wit, on the steps you have taken to identify and protect the koala populations that occur in the Western suburbs. In particular, what is currently occurring and planned in relation to development application assessment.

It would appear that at present Brisbane City Council only recognises animals that are found in the Eastern suburbs and that no attempt has been made to identify populations outside this area. This is despite money having been made available by the State Government for this purpose if a submission from Council had been accepted.

As you would be aware the proposed state Koala Plan for South-east Queensland is still being discussed as Councils have requested more time to investigate concerns. Could you please advise me of Brisbane City Council's position and submissions that have been made during this process.

Without sounding sentimental, I am writing this on behalf of the resident population that still occurs against all odds in the Bellbowrie/Moggill area. These animals are increasingly threatened due to fragmentation of their habitat, and importantly, their corridors. In our area they are also at threat due to the ignorance of the local population to their presence. This has resulted in unrestrained dogs and illegal habitat interference contributing to existing pressures.

However, I cannot truly convey to you the joy and excitement that was felt by our neighbours and friends - particularly the children - when they were made aware of the presence of a female koala that had taken up residence in our backyard for a month before moving on.

I feel very privileged to be able to share my environs with our wildlife and would appreciate a prompt response to my requests.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Julie Cox BVSc.

cc. Councillor Margaret de Wit,



Attachment 2.
Reply from Lord Mayor
to Attachment 1

25 March 2010

Dr Julie Cox

Dear Dr Cox

Thank you for your letter of 24 February 2010 about the protection of koalas in the western suburbs of Brisbane. I note that you have sent a copy of this letter to Councillor Margaret de Wit, Councillor for Pullenvale.

I share your concern about the plight of our koala population and the importance of protecting habitat areas and the corridors that connect them. Council has a range of strategies that focus on protecting flora and fauna across the city.

In terms of regulating development to protect koala habitat, new subdivisions in greenfield areas like Moggill must address specific codes of the *Brisbane City Plan 2000* (the City Plan). The Biodiversity Code requires that detailed surveys and ecological assessments are undertaken to identify habitats and significant ecological features, and that development proposals demonstrate how habitat areas and other values will be protected.

A review of the City Plan is currently underway to develop the new *City Plan 2012*. In 2009, a Statement of Proposals was released outlining the key areas of the review. Biodiversity conservation, improved biodiversity value mapping and consistency with Queensland Government koala management mechanisms were identified as important directions for the new plan. The period for comments on the Statement of Proposals has now closed, but there will be other opportunities to have your say. You can obtain copies of the Statement of Proposals and sign up for regular email updates on the City Plan review at www.brisbane.qld.gov.au and by searching under *Brisbane City Plan 2012*.

With respect to Council's response to the Queensland Government's recently released draft koala regulations and planning policy, Council supports the Queensland Government's initiatives to protect koalas in South East Queensland. Council is continuing to work with the Queensland Government to ensure that our collective efforts are complementary and that the investments we make result in real outcomes for the survival of the koala.

Council's vision is to increase natural habitat coverage to 40% by 2026 to sustain Brisbane's diverse wildlife and Council has in place a number of programs to achieve this goal. The Bushland Acquisition Program has secured over 2700 hectares of bushland since 1991, including over 800 hectares of important koala habitat, some of which was under immediate threat from development. I have committed to the acquisition of an additional 500 hectares of habitat by 2012.

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Council has mapped the native vegetation cover for the city to be able to identify vegetation communities, which are most significant for supporting koalas. Council also maintains a database of flora and fauna records to ensure that we have contemporary information on the distribution of significant species across the city. This also helps to inform areas requiring habitat restoration.

Council's 2 Million Trees project is undertaking a citywide revegetation program to expand and link existing natural habitat. A number of sites have been revegetated in your area including 187,000 trees planted in the Mt Crosby/Kholo area, 14,000 trees planted at John Wilson Reserve in Pinjarra Hills and 2800 trees planted at Moggill Road Park. Most of these sites will provide additional koala habitat as the trees grow.

You may be interested to know that more than half of Brisbane's natural habitat is privately owned. Council needs the participation and assistance of many private property owners to achieve the 40% habitat target and to protect koala habitat. The Wildlife Conservation Partnerships Program (WCPP) helps property owners to work with Council to protect and enhance wildlife habitat on their land. The program provides information and assistance on wildlife habitat management. There are currently 454 WCPP members conserving 1602 hectares in the western suburbs. This represents 78% of the total number of WCPP members and 82.6% of the total area conserved under the WCPP.

Your property is eligible for the WCPP program if you are willing to dedicate a minimum of 0.5 hectares of bushland to be protected or created. If you are interested in receiving assistance with protecting and enhancing the habitat values of your property through the WCPP, please call Program Officer Biodiversity Planning, Natural Environment and Sustainability branch or

Thank you for contacting me about this matter.

Yours sincerely

~~Campbell Newman~~
LORD MAYOR

Ref: LM05775-2010

cc: Councillor Margaret de Wit
Councillor for Pullenvale

Attachment 3. Response from DERM
Following my meeting
with Ar Wade Oestreich
25/08/10.

Ms Julie Cox

Dear Ms Cox

Thank you for your email dated 13 September 2010 concerning the revised development application lodged with Brisbane City Council for the Moggill Country Club at 126 Weekes Road, Moggill.

The bushland that you refer to was mapped under the *Interim South East Queensland Koala State Planning Regulatory Provisions* (February 2010) as 'protected koala bushland habitat'. However, on 31 May 2010 this interim planning instrument was replaced by the *South East Queensland Koala Conservation State Planning Regulatory Provisions* (SPRP) and *State Planning Policy 2/10: Koala Conservation in South east Queensland* (SPP). The SPRP is more limited in its extent than the previous interim SPRP with a particular focus on the high priority areas of the old Pine Rivers local government area and the Koala Coast, which covers Redlands and parts of Logan, Brisbane and Gold Coast local government areas. The SPRP also reflects the old statutory mapping under the *Nature Conservation (Koala) Conservation Plan and Management Program 2006-2016*. As stated in your email, the site is not mapped under the SPRP and therefore development applications are not regulated by this policy.

The Koala Habitat Values statutory mapping for the SPP does recognise the values of the site including the area of bushland along the river corridor, being identified as medium value bushland habitat. Although the SPP does not apply to development applications, Brisbane City Council (BCC) is required to achieve the outcomes sought by this policy where a planning scheme amendment or structure planning process is undertaken over the area. This includes identifying and protecting significant koala habitat values within the planning area and making development assessable in areas of known importance to koala conservation. With reference to the Moggill Country Club, the site contains mapped koala bushland habitat and has well established koala sightings on and in close vicinity of the site, provides connectivity to other patches of bushland, is part of a strategic waterway corridor and lies within one kilometre of an area mapped under the SPRP.

I also note that the site is considered to be within River Precinct 1 under the BCC Planning Scheme requiring a 100m setback from the river. The Brisbane River Management Plan's guiding principles include a commitment to cooperate with State agencies, and given that the SPP adopts a clear position on koala conservation in SEQ, there may be scope within the precinct code to identify the important koala habitat within the waterway corridor as a State Interest.

The SPP also encourages Council to undertake voluntary, non-statutory measures to identify and protect koalas and their habitat within their local government area, as local government will be required to report on meeting net gains in bushland targets.

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Website www.derm.qld.gov.au
ABN 46 640 294 485

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Given that the site contains several credentials establishing its ecological value to koalas, the Department of Environment and Resource Management would recommend that Brisbane City Council recognise the outcomes of the SPP when considering development proposals for this site. The policy's intent is to reduce the impacts of development on koalas in South East Queensland through the retention of habitat, maintaining and enhancing connectivity and safe movement opportunities.

Should you have any further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact Senior Conservation Officer on telephone

Yours sincerely

**Acting Director
Koala Policy and Operations Branch
Department of Environment and Resource Management**

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Facsimile + 61 7 3330 6306
Website www.derm.qld.gov.au
ABN 46 640 294 485

Attachment 4. Response Full - 4/10
Meeting 4/08/10.

Cr Margaret de Wit

Councillor for Pullenvale Ward



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Kenmore Shopping Centre

Brookfield Road, Kenmore QLD 4069

Email > pullenvale.ward@ecm.net.au

Web > www.margaretdewit.com.au

20 September 2010

Dr Julie Cox
PO Box 13
BELLBOWRIE QLD 4070

Dear Dr ~~Cox~~ Julie

Thank you for your enquiry of 14 August regarding Koala state legislation and the Moggill Country Club. I have now received a response from Council, and I apologise for the delay.

The Development Assessment West Branch has provided the following statement:

The draft SEQ Koala State Planning Regulatory provisions (SPRP) came into effect in December 2008, with the state planning instruments being finalised in May 2010. However, as the original application was lodged (and deemed properly made) prior to December 2008, Council confirms that the SPRP does not apply. However, I note that, if the current proposal was to be approved, certain criteria in the SPRP would be applied to any subsequent applications on the site.

Council notes that the mapping identifies only the part of the site along the river as Protected Koala Bushland Habitat Areas (medium value bushland). Under the current revised proposal, this portion of the site is proposed to be retained as open space.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. If you require assistance regarding any Council matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Margaret de Wit
COUNCILLOR FOR PULLENVALE WARD
Chairman of Public and Active Transport

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Attachment 5: Letter to local residents
re Bee Nest Tree Policy.

Brisbane City Council ABN 72 002 765 795



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

23 November 2010



Mr John C Cox & Mrs Rae B Cox

Re: your property at

Dear Mr Cox & Mrs Cox

You may be aware that Brisbane City Council recently reviewed its policy on trees. Our review looked at the ways we could achieve a better balance and maintain our green leafy city, while protecting public safety and private property from the damage that can sometimes be caused by trees.

Council adopted two new tree policies and has been implementing the approved actions of the Tree Policy Review, including:

- safety inspections and maintenance of thousands of trees in parks and on other Council land
- being more selective in the choice of street and park tree species and planting locations to help avoid new risks, and
- providing relevant and accessible information to residents about Council's tree management activities and protected vegetation.

Our records indicate that you have vegetation protected by the Natural Assets Local Law (NALL) located on your property. As you consider preparations for this summer storm season, you might be interested to learn a little more about the parts of the local law that deal with hazardous branches and the removal of dangerous trees near your home.

In many circumstances you do not need Council's permission to carry out work to protected trees on your land. However, there may be some circumstances that need to be assessed and you will be asked to complete a simple, free application form, available at www.brisbane.qld.gov.au or by phoning Council's Contact Centre on (07) 3403 8888. A Council officer will then visit your property to assess the tree(s).

I have enclosed a guide to being a 'good tree neighbour'. This outlines Council's approach to managing trees and describes the responsibilities of Council, residents and others in terms of tree maintenance and safety in Brisbane.

Further information on preparing your property for storm season can be found at www.brisbane.qld.gov.au where you can also register to receive severe weather warnings through the Brisbane Early Warning Alert service.

The new tree policy will ensure a good balance between the safety and protection of the community on Council land, and the protection of Brisbane's valued natural environment.

Yours sincerely

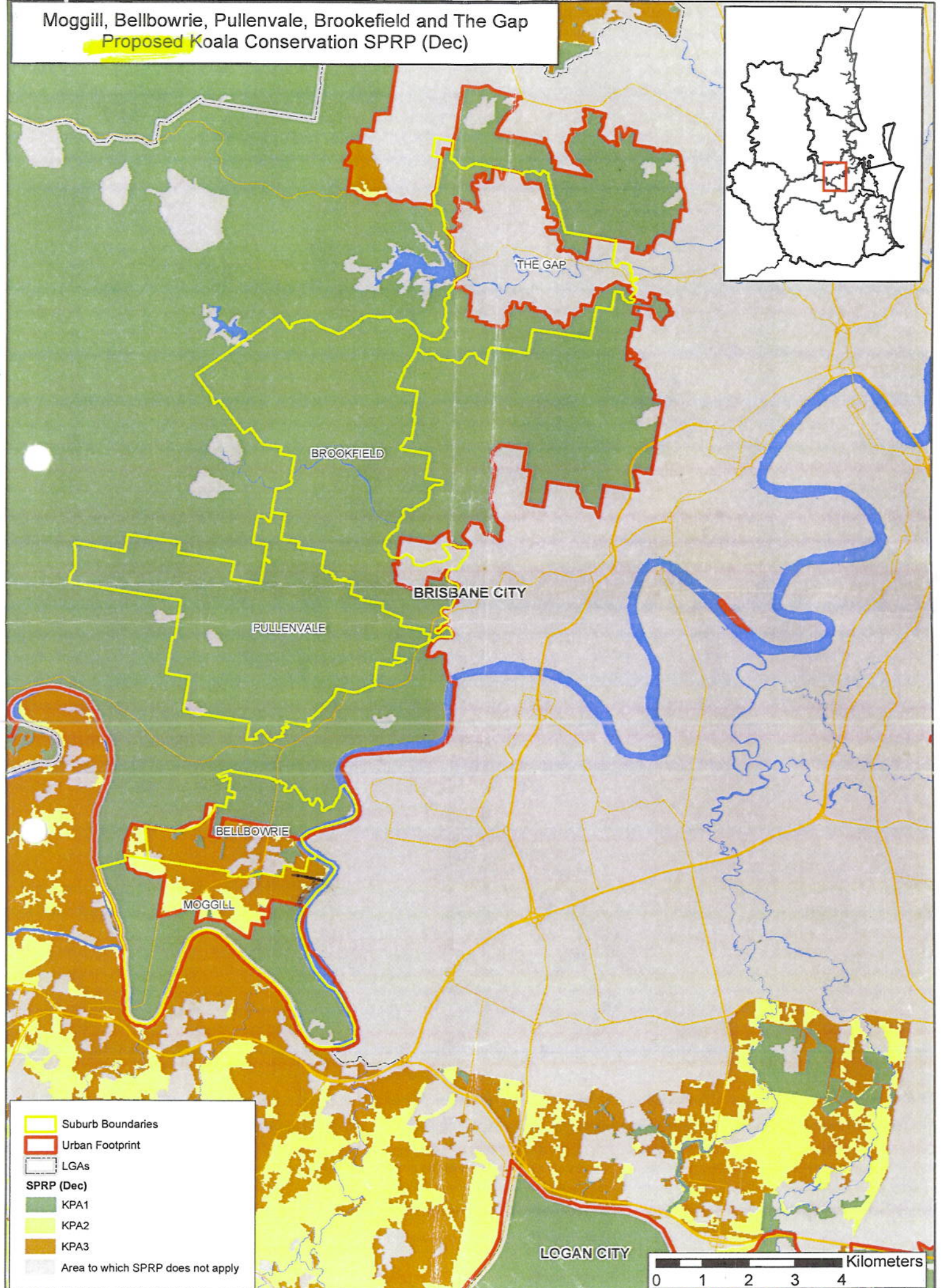
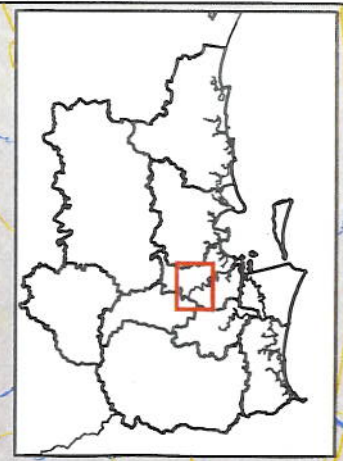
Colin Jensen
Chief Executive Officer
Brisbane City Council

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KPA 1 Removed from Final Plan

Attachment 6
Drill Koala Plan

Moggill, Bellbowrie, Pullenvale, Brookfield and The Gap
Proposed Koala Conservation SPRP (Dec)



Drill Koala Plan Qld Gov. - DERA