

Enquiries Stephen Trent
Telephone (07) 3238 3515
Your reference
Our reference STH7497



14 January 2007

Janette Rowe
Project Services
Department of Public Works
GPO Box 2906
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Environmental Protection Agency

Incorporating the
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service

Dear Ms Rowe,

Proposed Ministerial Designation of Land for Community Infrastructure for the Gatton Correctional Precinct, Gatton

In response to your letter, received on the 14th December 2007 regarding the above, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) notes that a number of significant biodiversity values are present over the site which should be addressed in the initial planning stage and before the commencement of any works.

Values

- The majority of remnant vegetation located within the site has been determined through the SEQ Biodiversity Planning Assessment (BPA) Version 3.5 (EPA, December 2007) as being of 'State Significance'. Values identified by the SEQ BPA include:
 - Core and/or non-core Habitat for the Koala (vulnerable under the *Nature Conservation Act (NCA) 1992*), Long-Nosed Potoroo (vulnerable under the *NCA 1992* and the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC) 1999*) and Stephens' Banded Snake (Rare under the *NCA 1992*). (Criteria A under the SEQ BPA)
 - Regional Ecosystems within the site are part of a vegetation tract that is one of the largest left in the bioregion and is allocated 'State' significance. Tract size is a major indicator of ecological significance as larger tracts are less susceptible to edge effects and better able to maintain viable populations of species. (Criteria C under the SEQ BPA)
 - Ecosystem diversity within the area is classified as ranging from medium to very high. This criteria measures habitat complexity and is a reflection of the diversity of Regional Ecosystems within an area. (Criteria F under the SEQ BPA)
 - Records indicate the presence of the Brush-Tailed Rock-Wallaby (classed as vulnerable under the *NCA 1992* and *EPBC 1999*) within bushland directly adjoining the focal lots. (Criteria A under the SEQ BPA)

- Records indicate the presence of the Greater Glider (classed as a 'Priority Species' under the SEQ BPA) within bushland directly adjoining the focal lots. (Criteria H under the SEQ BPA)
- Expert Panel has identified the general area as a wildlife refugia, containing endemic taxa and disjunct populations. (Criteria I under the SEQ BPA)
- A Riverine wetland or fringing riverine wetland (identified as a referable wetland under the *Integrated Planning Act 1997*) is present over part of lots 238 and 240 on CA31519. The wetland is mapped as the Regional Ecosystem 12.3.7: *Eucalyptus tereticornis*, *Melaleuca viminalis*, *Casuarina cunninghamiana* fringing forest.
- The proposed correctional facility is adjacent to Lockyer Forest Reserve, which is likely to undergo a change in tenure to National Park sometime in the future.

Issues and Recommendations

The site is located within the Regional Landscape and Rural Production Area under the *South East Queensland Regional Plan 2005-2026* (SEQ Regional Plan). Policy 2.1.1 of the SEQ Regional Plan requires the protection, management and enhancement of the region's nature conservation and biodiversity values and supporting ecological processes, including areas of state, regional and local biodiversity significance.

Due to the significant biodiversity values over the area, and the presence of endangered Regional Ecosystems identified and referred to in section 10.3 of the *Gatton Correctional Precinct Initial Assessment Report*, the development footprint should be located to avoid or minimise impact on remnant vegetation.

The EPA concurs with the recommendation provided by Natural Solutions Environmental Consultants Pty Ltd, that development and operational works could potentially be contained within cleared areas. Lots 238 and 242 on CA31519 and CA31612 respectively, are largely devoid of any remnant vegetation and have limited biodiversity value.

The current site plan shows the proposed location of the correctional facility structure occurring primarily on the western part of lot 240 on CA31519. However, the intended access road will intersect the wetland area displayed on the attached map (Attachment 1). The EPA generally recommends that a 100m buffer should be maintained around wetland areas to ensure long-term viability of the wetland community and maintain ecological functioning and natural fluctuations of the wetland. As such, access tracks should be located and constructed to have a minimal effect on wetland areas, preferably by location outside of such areas whilst maintaining a setback distance.

Similarly a setback of at least 100m from the adjoining Lockyer Forest Reserve is recommended to limit any edge effects on biodiversity within the reserve. A buffered area is important in minimising the effects of noise and lighting disturbance both during and after construction phase of the correctional facilities and supporting infrastructure. Where possible, the effects of noise and lighting along the Forest Reserve boundary should be equal to or no greater than at pre-development ambient conditions. If necessary, a landscaped area buffering the Forest Reserve should be adopted to achieve to filter noise and lighting effects. Landscaping works should use

locally native species that reflect the pre-clearing regional ecosystem, with preference given to endemic species. Plants should be of local preference where possible.

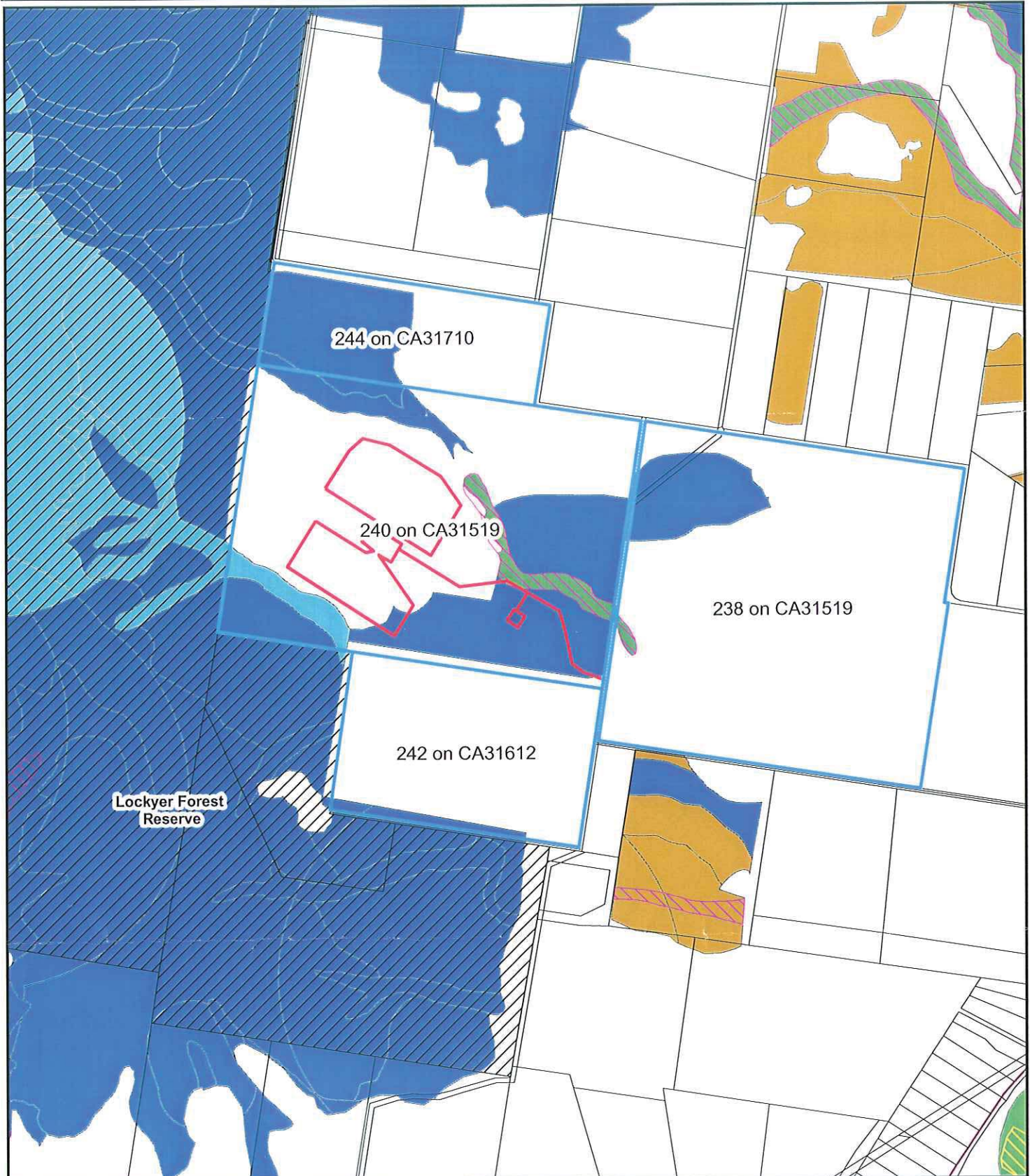
Yours sincerely



Kerri Milner
A/Manager, SEQ Planning Southern Region, EPA

288 Edward Street Brisbane
Queensland 4000 Australia
GPO Box 2771 BRISBANE QLD
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone 3225 8411
Facsimile 3225 8723
Website www.env.qld.gov.au
ABN 87 221 158 786

Attachment 1: Gatton Correctional Centre
SEQ Biodiversity Planning Assessment, V3.5 (December 2007)



LEGEND

Proposed Development Facilities

EPA Referrable Wetlands

- 51% to 80% wetland present in RE
- Lacustrine
- Palustrine
- Riverine

Biodiversity Significance South East Queensland

- Local or Other Values
- Non Bioregion Ecosystem
- Regional
- State
- State Habitat for EVR taxa

Cadastral Boundaries - Polygons (DCDB)



0.00 0.10 0.20 0.35
Km

Produced by Planning - Southern
Region, Queensland
Environmental Protection Agency.

Date Printed: 14/01/07

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14 January 2008



Janette Rowe
Project Services
Department of Public Works
GPO Box 2906
Brisbane Qld 4001

Queensland Transport

Attention: Ms Rowe

Submission to Ministerial Designation- Under Part 6 Division 1 of the *Integrated Planning Act (1997)*

**RE: Proposed Ministerial Designation of Land for Community Infrastructure –
*Gatton Correctional Precinct***

**Location: Millers Road and Krugers Road, Gatton
Lot 238 CA31519, Lot 248 CA31519, Lot 242 CA31612, Lot 244 CA31710**

I refer to correspondence received by this department on 20 December 2007, seeking submissions for the above proposed Ministerial Designation for Community Infrastructure.

Queensland Transport has reviewed the assessment report "Initial Assessment Report – Gatton Correctional Precinct" against the criteria that would normally be used by QT under its jurisdiction, namely the increased integration between land use and transport (s8A of the *Transport Planning and Coordination Act 1994*). Following this review Queensland Transport advises that the Department has no requirements on the above proposal.

If you have a query or wish to seek clarification about any of the above details, please contact Erin Chalk on 3117 5541.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "H. Kerr".

Helen Kerr
A/ Principal Advisor (Planning)

Integrated Transport Planning
Transport Planning
Floor 12 Cromwell House
200 Mary Street Brisbane Queensland 4000
GPO Box 213 Brisbane Queensland 4001
ABN 13 200 330 520

Our ref P26253 890/0 E
Your ref
Enquiries Erin Chalk
Telephone +61 7 3117 5541
Facsimile +61 7 3117 5554
Website www.transport.qld.gov.au
Email erin.b.chalk@transport.qld.gov.au

ROWE Janette

From: Francis Vanessa [Vanessa.Francis@nrw.qld.gov.au]
Sent: Friday, 21 December 2007 8:45 AM
To: ROWE Janette
Subject: Cultural Heritage Search - 238,240 CA31519 242 CA31612 244 CA31710

I refer to your application in which you requested advice on Aboriginal cultural heritage places recorded on the above location.

I wish to advise that no Aboriginal cultural heritage is recorded on the Cultural Heritage Database and Register in your specific search area, from the data provided by you. However, it is probable that the absence of recorded Aboriginal cultural heritage places reflects a lack of previous cultural heritage surveys of the area. Therefore, our records are not likely to reflect a true picture of the Aboriginal cultural heritage values of the area.

All significant Aboriginal cultural heritage in Queensland is protected under the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003*, and penalty provisions apply for any unauthorized harm. Under the legislation a person carrying out an activity must take all reasonable and practical measures to ensure the activity does not harm Aboriginal Cultural Heritage. This applies whether or not such places are recorded in a official register and whether or not they are located in, on or under private land.

Aboriginal cultural heritage, which may occur on the subject property, is protected under the terms of the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003* even if Natural Resources & Water has no records relating to it.

Please refer to our website www.nrw.qld.gov.au/cultural_heritage/index.html for a copy of the gazetted Cultural Heritage duty of care guidelines, which set out reasonable and practical measures for meeting the duty of care. The Aboriginal party(s) for the area is:

Jagera Daran Pty Ltd

Ms Caroline Bonner
40 Childs Road
Nudgee
QLD 4014
(07) 3267 0147 ph
(07) 3267 0173 fax

Should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me on (07) 3238 3839.

Kind Regards

Vanessa Francis
A/Policy Officer | Cultural Heritage Coordination Unit
Department of Natural Resources and Water

Level 5 Landcentre | Cnr Main & Vulture Sts | Gabba Q 4102
P 323 83839 | F 323 83842 | www.nrw.qld.gov.au

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21/12/2007

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