

SUBMISSIONS FOR KINGS FOREST AND COBAKI DUE IN IMMEDIATELY

Please write to Planning Minister Tony Kelly to ask for a review for Cobaki and Kings Forest for both the environment and for Leading Worlds Best Practice sustainable subdivisions and keep in mind the water use is wrapped up with Dam issues too.

Send to:

1. The Hon. Tony Kelly, MLC
Minister for Planning
Level 34 Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
Sydney NSW 2000
Phone (02) 9228 3999
Fax (02) 9228 3988
Email planning@lpma.nsw.gov.au
sharon.armstrong@lpma.nsw.gov.au

2. And NSW planning officer dealing with Kings Forest
Stuart Withington on 92286546
email Stuart.Withington@planning.nsw.gov.au

3. And planner for Cobaki
Annette Birchall on 02 9228 6490.
email Annette.Birchall@planning.nsw.au

4. The Hon. Ms Kristina Keneally MP, Premier
premier@nsw.gov.au <<mailto:premier@nsw.gov.au>>

5. TSC@tweed.nsw.gov.au
with a request to forward to all Councillors

Submission Ideas to the Minister For Kings Forest, Cobaki Lakes and Bilambil Rise Developments. ... Requesting a Sustainability Review....

The Minister for Planning is currently assessing these three massive developments. This is an opportunity to request that these developments be reviewed to achieve the highest environmental and sustainability outcomes worthy of the Tweed's internationally recognised environment. Tweed has the highest number of threatened flora species in Australia (State of the Environment Report 2009). Our Koalas are in serious trouble. It is our international duty to reverse these declines.

The Chairman of International Panel on Climate Change says that we only have until 2015 at the latest to halt the peak on carbon emissions. According to the Chairman it would not exceed more than 3% of the world's annual economy to reverse these trends. New planning standards are now essential. It's time to insist that new subdivisions be truly carbon neutral and to provide a positive impacts only.

Please write to the Minister for Planning Tony Kelly to strongly request the State Government commission an independent peer review by the Institute of Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney, to provide for 'leading world best practice'.

Leading world best practice standards are required for outcomes in:

- a) sustainable urban design, energy efficiency and public transport
- b) sustainable water use, water sensitive urban design, sewerage and waste management,
- c) employment opportunities and encouragement of a green economy,
- d) social planning (especially for youth and ageing populations),
- e) Indigenous cultural heritage,
- f) food security,
- g) environment,
- h) open space,
- i) climate change response, including filling issues and risk management,
- k) section 94 developer contributions plans,
- l) other relevant issues that arise.

Kings Forest - 12,000 people.

A recent Freedom of Information request has unearthed files showing the Planning Dept, under Min. Frank Sartor, overruled advice from the Dept of Environment which required dedication of the eastern, south eastern and north eastern portions of Kings Forest for environmental protection.

Kings Forest has 452 different species on site with 30 threatened listings. 75 koalas utilize the Kings Forest area, with at least 15 resident Koalas on site. This is a vital koala stronghold.

Cobaki Lakes – 12,000 people

The Cobaki area is one of the most significant Aboriginal Cultural Landscapes in the Tweed being a massive campsite area.

There are 643 different species and 28 threatened listings are recorded for the Cobaki Lakes site.

Bilambil Rise - 5000 people

"The site is of extreme importance to biodiversity, with Parks and Wildlife Division Area Manager John Hunter describing the area as "arguably some of the most significant remnant rainforest areas in the State and probably contains more specimens of threatened rainforest plant species than any areas of comparable size in the State". Council letter Dept of Planning Oct '09

International Significance

"Australia is one of 17 countries described as being 'megadiverse'. This group of countries has less than 10% of the global surface, but support more than 70% of the biological diversity on earth. Of countries containing large endowments of biodiversity, Australia is unique in another very significant way. Of all the countries classified as megadiverse, Australia is one of only two countries in the high income category. This position carries a special responsibility and implies that a high standard of biodiversity protection can be expected in Australia. It also carries with it an opportunity too for world leadership". (Aust Govt website: State of Environment report 2001)

The Australian Government listed Border Rangers, including the Tweed Caldera, as one of the 15 biodiversity hotspots around Australia. "These hotspots were identified to increase public awareness of the cost effectiveness of strategic and timely action to conserve biodiversity. In hotspot areas, timely intervention may prevent long-term and irreversible loss of their values, and provide high return on our conservation dollar". (Aust Govt website: Biodiversity Hotspots)

"The Earth is experiencing the 6th massive extinction event of its evolutionary history – the 5th was 65 million years ago. The conservation status of Australia's biodiversity reflects the global situation. Close to 50% of all mammal extinctions that occurred globally in the last 200 years were in Australia".

<http://www.greatasterranges.org.au/nature/wildlife/global-extinction-crisis>

"Tweed has the largest number of threatened flora in Australia. 80% of bush land in Tweed has high (or very high) conservation status" (State of the Environment Tweed 2009).

This World Class environment deserves world class planning practices

Clr Katie Milne 19th April 2010