



Protect the Bush Alliance

Newsletter November 2016

Submissions made by PTBA

Over the last few months PTBA has made a number of submissions and representations to Government and Councils on matters that involve the protection of habitat. These are:

1. A submission on the Underground Water & other legislation Bill.

PTBA requests that WROLA be suitably amended to revoke the granting of statutory water rights to the mining industry. We consider that this liberal use of such a precious commodity, places too great a burden on the water that ensures a healthy life for all living beings and their habitats.

2. A submission on the Arrow Energy Pipeline Moranbah to Gladstone.

This submission is focussed on the potential adverse environmental impact of expanding gas production, water quality concerns, the ongoing clearing of woodland and the social and economic impact on landowners.

3. A submission on the NEGI-Jemena Pipeline.

This submission is focussed on the cumulative impact of the pipeline as well as deficits in the EIS.

4. A letter on a planned development in Chapel Hill.

This focuses on the potential loss of habitat, particularly through the removal of mature trees. See below.

5. An outline of matters to be discussed at the Ministerial Round Table Nov 15th – 16th 2016

When appropriate, these submissions will be published on our website.

Rights of Nature Tribunal



PTBA were proud sponsors of the Australian Earth Laws Alliance (AELA) Rights of Nature Citizen's Tribunal (RON) convened in the Banco Court in Brisbane Saturday 22nd October 2016. The Tribunal heard cases presented by citizens and Earth lawyers concerned about the destruction of ecosystems in Australia.

This followed the very successful AELA two day conference held at Griffith University.

The Tribunal will make recommendations about law reform and restorative actions that need to happen to ensure the future protection of Australia's precious ecosystems in Australia and ecosystems globally. It will also advocate for the recognition of the rights of nature to exist, thrive and evolve.

Australia's Rights of Nature Tribunal is a Regional Chamber of the International Rights of Nature Tribunal. Information about the International Tribunal can be found on this website:

<http://therightsofnature.org/rights-of-nature-tribunal/>

The Tribunal was run according to rules developed for RON Tribunals by the Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature. A panel of judges heard the cases and made recommendations. Citizens, scientific experts and legal experts from around Australia were participating. As a citizen's tribunal, the RON Tribunal is not a government endorsed activity nor do any of its activities, decisions or recommendations have the force of government-sanctioned law.

To read more about the Tribunal visit:

<https://www.givenow.com.au/naturetribunal>

Development on Kirkdale Road, Chapel Hill

Protect the Bush Alliance has received advice from members acting as community representatives in the matter of this development at Kirkdale Road, Chapel Hill. It is considered there remains the potential for destructive impacts on the health of Cubberla Creek. Once again the paucity of assessment in the EIS is seen. One visit to site in dry weather, fails to elicit frog species and other macro-fauna. There is no evidence of nocturnal assessment. Local residents were able to provide records of bird species abundance in excess of 165 and 18 frogs identified.



Work on the site is well underway as can be seen from the photograph taken at 34 Kirkdale Road on 27th October 2016.

A thorough assessment of the impacts of all developments is essential as we face the challenge of chipping away at green spaces, to accommodate growth in the outer city suburbs. Our comments can be found on our website here:

<http://ptba.org.au/developments-around-cubberla-creek-chapel-hill/>

The Alliance supports members working with Brisbane City Council to improve outcomes for the health of this and other wildlife corridors and important green space for communities.

Development at Carseldine - Carseldine Urban Village

A plan to redevelop the QUT/DOT site on Beams Road, Carseldine as the Carseldine Urban Village has recently been announced by the Deputy Premier. Open forest and partially cleared land comprises approximately 25% of the land with the remaining 55% being bushland with significant understory.

It is planned to redevelop the site and build 900 apartments to house approximately 3,500 people. It is stated that 18ha (40%) of vegetation will be protected and an additional 3.5ha of open space created. This means that around 40% of the current open forest will be lost.

The area currently has many trees in an open forest with no understory on much of the site. The land closer to the creek has a thicker understory with some invasive weeds. Many of the trees are mature eucalypts with nesting hollows. Indeed long billed corellas were nesting in one tree. The bird life seen on a short walk in the middle of the day suggested that the precinct has a rich avifauna. Birds seen include long billed corellas, red-backed fairy wrens, owls, satin flycatchers, honeyeaters, kingfishers, Lewin's rail and raptors. This is in addition to the common urban birds. A bat colony sometimes roosts in the forest close to the creek. Gliders have been previously reported.



The area appears to be a rich piece of urban bushland. PTBA and Birds Queensland will work with the residents to ensure the key green space is preserved, particularly the Cabbage Tree Creek (left) corridor.

North East Gas Interconnector update

In 2014, the Northern Territory Government sought proposals for the development of a gas pipeline connecting the Northern and Eastern Gas Markets to be known as the North East Gas Interconnector (NEGI). The NEGI involves the construction and operation of a 622 km buried high-pressure gas pipeline from Tennant Creek in the Northern Territory to Mount Isa in Queensland.

A draft EIS for this project has been released and is available at:

<https://ntepa.nt.gov.au/news/2016/open-comment-jemena-northern-gas-pipeline>

The EIS has a significant body of omissions, unfounded or unsupported statements and opinion passed ostensibly as findings. Some of their survey efforts (primarily those supported by experts) are plausible, but in many cases foundation assumptions and desktop findings are questionable and not robustly supported, and in some cases not supported at all.

Background to the project can be read at:

<http://ptba.org.au/a-new-gas-pipeline-from-the-northern-territory-to-queensland/>

Murray's Reserve

Murray's Reserve is a 9.1 hectare Reserve managed by Logan City Council. This reserve which includes a tiny 3 hectare nature refuge, protects a part of the only remaining natural community of *Gossia gonoclada*, (Angle-stemmed myrtle, below) listed as endangered under the Federal EPBC Act.

The Council plans to construct an adventure playground in the Reserve. This is entirely inappropriate and increases the pressure on the remaining *Gossia gonoclada*. The Council owns at



least 4 alternative sites that could be used for an adventure playground; Leslie Park, Porter Park, Loganlea Picnic Ground and a property at 4 Jalan St; the latter being a large block suitable for parking. It now appears possible that the Council is considering alternative sites.

PTBA has continued to liaise with the Council, objecting to the development on the grounds of increased risk to the *Gossia gonoclada* community.

A copy of the letter written to the Council can be found on the PTBA web site>

<http://ptba.org.au/letter-to-logan-city-council-re-murrays-reserve/>

Planned bikeway over Erapah Creek

Many people in the Victoria Point area have great concern for the coastal forest areas around Erapah Creek. Coastal forest is under threat in many regions. The Redland City Council is



progressing plans to construct a bikeway that will destroy coastal forest along the banks of the creek.

Construction involves the destruction of forest to bring in heavy equipment to build a bridge.

PTBA has written to Redlands City Council highlighting the impact of the bikeway and continues to work with residents in an attempt to halt the project. An update can be read here:

<http://ptba.org.au/eprapah-creek-bushland-at-victoria-point-under-threat/>

Protect the Bush Alliance - Incorporation

Protect the Bush Alliance (PTBA) is an alliance of 22 NGOs and community groups in Queensland and Australia. Our goal is to implement ways of preventing the continuing loss of areas of high conservation values to inappropriate development. We do this by advocacy as well as by conducting flora and fauna surveys on properties of high conservation value and on the properties which link them.

The PTBA Management Team has decided to progress with incorporation. In September, a briefing paper was sent to all members discussing the various aspects of incorporation. This can be found on our website at:

<http://ptba.org.au/to-incorporate-or-not-a-briefing-note-to-ptba-members/>

A meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 22nd of November at 6.30PM to be held at The Bower, 28 Waterview Terrace to consider the following resolutions:

a. It is resolved that Protect the Bush Alliance incorporate as an incorporated association under the provisions of the Associations Incorporation Act 1981 (Qld)

b. It is resolved that the name "Protect the Bush Alliance Inc" be adopted.

c. It is resolved that the constitution entitled "Protect the Bush Alliance Constitution" as attached be adopted.

The papers will be circulated prior to the meeting. Members who are unable to attend the meeting will be able to vote via email. We require approval of ¾ of our membership so a response is important.

To learn more; visit our website (www.ptba.org.au), join PTBA (it is free) and come to the meeting.