

WPPPS /
SD North

NATURAL RESOURCES and MINES Ministerial Correspondence Action Sheet

MINISTERIAL REFERENCE M10642013	DEPT REFERENCE
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DATE RECEIVED MINISTER'S OFFICE: 03 JUL 2013

- Response Letter
 - For reply under Minister's signature
 - For reply under the Assistant Minister's signature
 - For reply under Chief of Staff's signature
 - For reply under the Senior Policy Advisor's signature (Andrew Freeman)
 - For reply under the Policy Advisor's signature (Dan Hall)
 - For departmental response under DG's signature
- Referral Letter

<input type="checkbox"/> Minister's signature	Category
<input type="checkbox"/> Chief of Staff's signature	Complaint / Compliment / Enquiry / Request / FYI

cc: → SD
FYI
s.49 - Signature

- Briefing note
- Dot points
- FYI / No reply
- Dept to contact author



CTS 20902/13

RTI DL RELEASE - DNRM

MINISTER'S OFFICE COMMENTS

no file

- Copies provided to AF & Min.

- Engodoy - ACC issues

RECEIVED
@ 2012 30-8-13



Premier of Queensland

For reply please quote: ERP/CM - TF/13/10868 - DOC/13/88910

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02 JUL 2013

Mr Stewart Peters
General Manager
Integrated Food and Energy Developments Pty Ltd
PO Box 2406
ASCOT QLD 4007

RECEIVED

03 JUL 2013

Dear Mr Peters

OFFICE OF THE QLD MINISTER
NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES

Thank you for your email of 9 May 2013 about the Etheridge Tropical Bio-Processing Project proposal. I apologise for the delay in responding.

The scale of this project is impressive and I agree with you that it provides some unique opportunities for regional Queensland, as well as some challenges. I understand you have already met the Coordinator-General, Mr Barry Broe and discussed whether your proposal might be considered a 'coordinated project' under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971*. Given that this is no ordinary development, I would strongly recommend you continue discussions with the Coordinator-General's office to determine the most appropriate course of action to facilitate consideration and, if it is found to be necessary, address Federal Government environmental approval requirements.

I also understand that you have met with representatives from the Office of the Honourable Dr John McVeigh MP, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. I am pleased that you were given the opportunity to outline your proposal at that time.

B/C

The Honourable the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines.

By direction. For your information.

Copy of inwards correspondence is attached.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

CAMPBELL NEWMAN

As you rightly point out, the water resources in the Gilbert River Catchment, including the Einasleigh River, are allocated and managed under the *Water Resource (Gulf) Plan 2007* (the Gulf WRP), which has set aside 15 000 megalitres of unallocated water in the Gilbert River Catchment. This is considerably less than the 325 000 megalitre requirement set out in your project proposal and an amendment to the Gulf WRP would be necessary to address this emerging water need.

The Honourable Andrew Cripps MP, Minister for Natural Resources and Mines has given a clear commitment that he is willing to bring forward a review of the Gulf WRP if there is strong uptake of the currently unallocated water, and if there is evidence that more water can be sustainably allocated from the Flinders and Gilbert Rivers. This is a matter you should continue to discuss with Minister Cripps and his department.

In relation to the land tenure issue, there are indeed legislative constraints on the freeholding of term leases for pastoral purposes, but conversion to perpetual lease and then to freehold is possible. The management of state land tenures is currently under review and I can assure you that tenure conversion is a matter under active consideration.

Long-term planning to address consequent growth is also important and I understand that, on 1 February 2013, officers from the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (DSDIP) and the Etheridge Shire Council met in Cairns to discuss planning matters that need to be considered, should the project proposal proceed.

Discussions focussed on the potential for a significant relative increase in population, as a result of new employment potentially generated by your proposal, and the need to provide land, housing and services to accommodate these people. In particular, council is concerned with the potential prevalence of temporary accommodation and it is also clear that issues, such as the availability of suitable land and access to water and sewerage infrastructure, need to be properly addressed.

DSDIP and council have discussed the need to amend the Shire of Etheridge Planning Scheme Provisions 2005 to ensure that future development for the purposes of accommodating new workers is dealt with appropriately. I understand that council considers the current planning scheme to be deficient in this respect.

With this in mind, the planning scheme is due for review on 18 October 2013. Council can either resolve to review the existing planning scheme, prepared under the *Integrated Planning Act 1997*, or resolve to prepare a new planning scheme under the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*. At this stage, council can incorporate the necessary changes to plan for any potential future growth in Georgetown through this process. Moving forward, officers at DSDIP's Cairns Regional Office can provide advice to council in relation to planning scheme issues.

The Queensland Government does not normally fund water, sewerage and other trunk infrastructure. However, one option to facilitate both planning and borrowings is through the involvement of Economic Development Queensland and the declaration of a provisional or priority development area. You may wish to discuss this further with DSDIP officers.

Unfortunately, due to the Premier's heavy workload, he is unable to meet with you at this time to further discuss this project. However, I hope this information will give you confidence to move this proposal forward.

Again, thank you for bringing these issues to the Premier's attention.

Yours sincerely

JEFF SEENEY
ACTING PREMIER

RTI DL RELEASE - DNRM

Pamela Richardson

From: Nadia Cecil
Sent: Monday, 20 May 2013 1:11 PM
To: Pamela Richardson
Subject: FW: Etheridge Tropical Bio-processing project
Attachments: IFED - Etheridge Tropical Bio-processing (ETB) Project - DSDIP - 2013-04-09.pdf; Briefing note - 2013-04-18.pdf; General - 001-2013-05-07 rev C.pdf

Digitised?	YES	NO
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20 MAY 2013	Date Received in DPC	
Document No:	DOC/13/84538	
File No:		
Tracking Folder No:	TF/13/10868	

From: Glenys Jenkin
Sent: Monday, 20 May 2013 1:04 PM
To: Nadia Cecil; Jan Hatton
Subject: FW: Etheridge Tropical Bio-processing project

Hi Nadia and Jan
For registration please and to go direct to the department for URGENT RESPONSE as requested below by Gen Alexander.
Can you please send me the TF once registered so I can track the progress?
Thanks,
G

From: Genevieve Alexander [mailto:Genevieve.Alexander@ministerial.qld.gov.au]
Sent: Monday, 20 May 2013 12:57 PM
To: Glenys Jenkin
Subject: FW: Etheridge Tropical Bio-processing project

Hi Glenys,

Can we please have a response drafter for the below, urgently?

I would also like to see a copy sent to Minister Cripps and Assistant Minister Deb Frecklington MP in her responsibility for red tape reform.

Many thanks



Genevieve Alexander
Policy Advisor
Office of the Hon. Campbell Newman MP | Premier of Queensland
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PO Box 15185 | City East | Brisbane | QLD 4002
Great State. Great Opportunity.

From: Stewart Peters [mailto:stewart.peters@i-fed.com.au]
Sent: Thursday, 9 May 2013 8:46 AM
To: Genevieve Alexander
Subject: Etheridge Tropical Bio-processing project

Dear Genevieve,

Please find attached various presentations which relate to our discussion with the Premier early last week.

I would like to emphasize that we are not seeking state funding but the project has three major issues to deal with:

1. Water allocation to the project. Without an allocation, we have no project. NRM have advised that the current Resource Management Planning process which is used to allocate water to irrigators and other end-users is

inappropriate. It was never designed to deal with large scale investment in infrastructure. An alternative stand-alone process is needed.

2. Land tenure - conversion of pastoral lease to freehold. Legal advice indicates that this may not be possible under the current legislation. I understand that pastoral tenure is being reviewed.

The Premier noted in the meeting that an alternative zone and land designation could be created to facilitate agricultural development.

3. The Etheridge Shire Council is classified as "remote and disadvantaged", however, the depth and breadth of the project will require detailed environmental and planning assessment which the council cannot deliver. A large number of non-project development applications will hit the council as developers seek to exploit a large new community investment opportunity in a rural region.

The council will require support in many areas - town planning and regulatory assessment, water supply, sewage treatment, health services, etc

I would like to meet with your team again to provide more detail on the project and the key issues and provide an update of the project status.

Thank you for your time to meet. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Regards

Stewart Peters
General Manager

tel

skype Stewart.Peters
www.i-fed.com.au

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