



MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

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In reply please quote: MOF19540

Mr Geoff Brown  
Convenor  
ADI Residents Action Group  
PO Box 4134  
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23 SEP 200

Dear Mr Brown

Thank you for your letter of 19 August concerning the St Marys Macrofauna Management Plan.

As you would be aware, kangaroos and emus have been introduced to the former ADI site over the past 30 years, and the kangaroo population now exceeds 4,000. As a result, the initial examination of captured kangaroos has indicated that they are in a generally very poor condition due to overgrazing pressures and parasitic infections. I am advised that the number of animals at the site is unsustainable and is likely to be impacting upon endangered native vegetation.

The Macrofauna Management Plan has been endorsed by the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC). The developer, Delfin Lend Lease, is licensed under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* to hold and manage macrofauna at the site. The Management Plan, the licence and the many conditions and standards attached to it have all been formulated with animal welfare as the primary concern, and this remains the focus of the Plan's implementation.

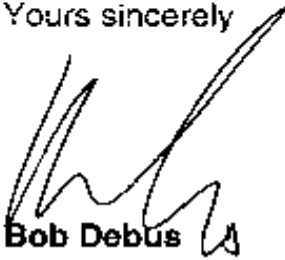
I am advised that all personnel involved in macrofauna management at the site have received appropriate training. Minimum training requirements include courses in the capture and handling of macrofauna, and industry-standard training and experience for any staff involved in more technical duties such as darting, sterilisation and supervision. The personnel carrying out most of the capturing and handling have been recruited from the Macquarie University kangaroo program and have both qualifications and experience, in some cases of many years, in the handling of kangaroos. All staff employed to work on the Macrofauna Management Plan are subject to DEC approval.

In addition, all handling of macrofauna is carried out under the supervision of a veterinary surgeon with relevant large animal experience. The surgeon acts as an independent overseer and assesses operational protocols and their implementation. The senior veterinary surgeon chosen to fulfil this role has expert knowledge and experience in the handling of kangaroos, and the DEC is satisfied that he is both appropriately qualified and independent.

At present, kangaroos are being relocated from the first development area to other areas of the ADI site. Relocation has involved the herding of kangaroos, and the capture and chemical sterilisation of a proportion of these animals.

Herding operations involving over 120 kangaroos have so far caused no injuries or deaths. However, during sterilisation procedures, I am advised that seven kangaroos needed to be euthanased due to the individuals being injured or sick. Operational procedures are constantly being reviewed, and improvements have already been made to minimise any harm or injury to the kangaroos.

Yours sincerely



Bob Debus