



14 August 2008
In reply please quote: Item 20

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The Hon. Andrew McNamara
Minister for Sustainability, Climate Change and Innovation
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Dear Minister

Re: Healthy Waterways Program

At the annual conference of the Urban Local Government Association of Queensland held recently in Gympie members resolved that representations be made to the State Government requesting advice on the Government's commitment to the Healthy Waterways Program with specific reference to the groups that were operating prior to the Queensland Local Government Reform.

Logan City Council, a ULGA member Council, is a significant partner and financial contributor to the regional Healthy Waterways Program with key actions and activities planned and committed as part of the new Healthy Waterways Strategy (2007 - 2012).

The 'Strategy' provides the strategic direction for integrated water management across South East Queensland and is a collaborative approach between all partners including state, local governments, industry and the community.

Various working and consultative groups provided key input and recommendations as part of the Strategy development and included locally, the Southern Implementation Group and the Logan and Albert Task Force.

Prior to local government reform, the Queensland whole of government policy and program commitment to the Healthy Waterways Strategy (June 2007) was an investment of \$20 million in new funding over 4 years. This was in addition to significant and continuing investment in the upgrade of waste water and water reuse facilities across the region.

Therefore, in response to the acknowledged State commitment to the Strategy and subsequent local government reform, there are pertinent queries and concerns relating to the level and roll-out of investment that has been requested to be addressed. This is particularly relevant in relation to:

The alignment of Queensland Government commitment with regional NRM planning;

- ❖ The alignment and co-investment opportunities as part of the Australian Government 'Caring for Our Country' initiative;
- ❖ The Queensland Government commitment to the development and implementation of relevant local area action plans;



- ❖ The mechanisms proposed to reconnect the communication and consultative working groups as part of the implementation phase of the Strategy.

It is therefore recommended that the Minister for Sustainability, Climate Change and Innovation arrange to provide the appropriate advice to accommodate these concerns.

Your consideration of the matter and advice in due course would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely

**P PISASLE
PRESIDENT**