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24 FEB 2014

Ms Jeannette Douglass
jbdouglass@iimetro.com.au

Dear Ms Douglass
~~Dear Ms Douglass,~~

Thank you for your email of 14 February 2014 regarding the Toondah Harbour Priority Development Area.

I understand that the public notification period for this Priority Development Area closes on 24 February 2014.

In late 2012 the Newman Government passed legislation that added complexity to the awarding of costs in the Planning and Environment Court and allows developers in some circumstances to impose their legal costs on an unsuccessful community group action.

This is all about undermining the rights of community groups to have reasonable conditions imposed on large scale developments.

The replacement of the previous government's Urban Development Areas with Priority Development Areas also broadens the circumstances in which community appeal rights under the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009* can be overridden. The Labor Opposition strongly opposed and voted against these changes passed by the Newman Government in the *Sustainable Planning and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012*. The Newman Government consulted exclusively with the property industry prior to this legislation being introduced.

The Opposition is opposed to the removal of genuine community input through the arbitrary declaration of Priority Development Areas.

If you would like to discuss this issue further please don't hesitate to contact the Opposition Office on 3838 6767.

Yours sincerely

Tim Mulherin

Tim Mulherin MP
Deputy Leader of the Opposition