



Hon Dr Steven Miles MP  
Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and  
Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef

Ref CTS 20264/16

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**12 AUG 2016**

The Honourable Josh Frydenberg MP  
Minister for the Environment and Energy  
PO Box 6022  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

**Toondah Harbour Priority Development Area**

We understand that the Australian Government currently is due, in early September 2016, to take a threshold decision regarding whether to progress with assessment of the potential impacts on the ecological character of the Moreton Bay wetlands arising from the proposed development at Toondah Harbour, Cleveland.

We write to confirm the Queensland Government's support for the redevelopment of Toondah Harbour, and the jobs and economic growth that the proposed development seeks to deliver, while also ensuring that environmental outcomes are addressed.

The referral documents provided by Walker Group Holdings Pty Limited broadly describe the direct and indirect potential impacts of the proposed project on intertidal mud and sand flats, mangrove forests and intertidal seagrass meadows.

We acknowledge that the Toondah Harbour Priority Development Area (PDA) declared by the then Queensland government in June 2013 overlaps with part of Moreton Bay's listed Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention) site. As you know, impacts on Ramsar sites are assessed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwlth) and not under Queensland legislation.

It is regrettable that the then Queensland government appears not to have properly considered the potential to enliven Commonwealth interests, when declaring the PDA in 2013. Delays and uncertainty for the proponent and the local community could have been avoided.

Nonetheless, the Queensland Government supports the project now being declared a "controlled action" under Commonwealth legislation, so as to ensure that its potential impact on matters of national environmental significance can be assessed in detail based on sound evidence.

We confirm our willingness to work constructively with you, your department and the proponent to find sustainable solutions to these key environmental issues.

We trust this information has been of assistance to you. In the interests of transparency, and after discussion with your Office by telephone, we have provided a copy of this letter to the proponent.

For any queries, please contact either Mr Philip Halton (Minister Miles' Office) or Mr Matt Collins (Deputy Premier's Office) on 07 3719 7330 or 07 3719 7071, respectively.

Yours sincerely



**DR STEVEN MILES MP**  
Minister for Environment and  
Heritage Protection and  
Minister for National Parks and  
the Great Barrier Reef



**JACKIE TRAD MP**  
**DEPUTY PREMIER**  
Minister for Infrastructure, Local  
Government and Planning and  
Minister for Trade and  
Investment