

MICHAEL BERKMAN MP

Queensland Greens Member for Maiwar



10 October 2018
Hon Leeanne Enoch MP
Minister for Environment
1 William Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000
Via email environment@ministerial.qld.gov.au

CC Minister for Planning via email: statedevelopment@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Protecting native bushland in Fig Tree Pocket

Dear Minister,

I am writing to you regarding a development in my electorate at 229-233 Jesmond Road, Fig Tree Pocket (A004078868). As you may be aware, there is significant community concern about a new development on this site, due to commence any day now. The development will clear hundreds of mature trees in an important densely vegetated area, to make way for private dwellings. The community is understandably outraged by this environmental destruction. They were not adequately consulted, and feel their concerns are being completely ignored by Council. As the local member, I have been speaking with these locals and recently organised a community meeting about the matter. It was attended by more than forty local residents.

The land in question is mapped as an area of high ecological significance and a Matter of State Environmental Significance in Council overlay mapping and State legislation. It is an important wildlife corridor and much-loved patch of urban vegetation, home to special and rare native species including squirrel gliders, mountain brushtail possums, owls, wallabies and echidnas.

Despite this, Council does not appear to have given the development adequate environmental assessment as required by State legislation. The Ecological Report prepared by JFP Urban Consultants at page 9 states that the area is not one of significant habitat, and found no occurrences of 'vulnerable' or 'near threatened' species during their site visit. However, locals have substantial evidence contrary to this assessment, suggesting a range of wildlife inhabits the area.

Given the above, I urge your department to conduct an assessment at the area. I would also request that such investigations begin immediately, on account of the urgency of this matter.

If you have any questions about this matter please do not hesitate to contact my office on 07 37374100 or at maiwar@parliament.qld.gov.au

Best regards,

Michael Berkman MP

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