

**Minister for Environment, Local Government, Planning and Women  
The Honourable Desley Boyle**

**Wednesday, July 12, 2006**

**Government partnership to protect SEQ bushland corridor**

Bushland corridors near Ipswich will be linked to adjacent land in Brisbane, Logan, Beaudesert and Boonah following an agreement finalised today by State, local and Commonwealth governments to preserve vital wildlife habitats in the area.

Queensland Environment Minister Desley Boyle said the memorandum of understanding (MoU) related to a 40 kilometre-long corridor of land stretching from south of Flinders Peak in Beaudesert Shire to Greenbank Military Training Area and Karawatha Forest in Brisbane.

"This MoU is a significant achievement, bringing together all levels of government to protect and manage this ecologically-important land corridor," Ms Boyle said.

The Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Defence, Brisbane City Council, Ipswich City Council and Beaudesert Shire Council today announced the finalised MoU.

Logan City Council and SEQ Catchments Ltd have also supported the initiative and will participate in working groups formed as a result of the agreement.

Ms Boyle complimented Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan for her strong support for the MoU.

"She has been a very determined leader in this project – and I know she only regards it as Stage 1," Ms Boyle said.

Ms Nolan welcomed the signing of the MoU.

"Recognition of this bushland as a single corridor provides the environment protection these threatened species need and ensures recreational open space for the people of the growing Western Corridor," Ms Nolan said.

"This corridor provides habitat for 14 species of rare or threatened fauna and 13 species of rare or threatened flora.

"These include the spotted-tailed quoll, yellow-bellied glider, glossy black cockatoo, koala, powerful owl and a number of frog species.

"Flora species found in the area include the Boonah tuckeroo, plunket mallee and shiny-leaved coodoo," Ms Nolan said.

The MoU was developed by the Flinders to Greenbank/Karawatha Conservation Partnership, which recognised the conservation value and recreational opportunities that the land provides to the South-East Queensland community.

Ms Boyle said the MoU meant resources and expertise would be shared to promote wildlife and conservation management.

"By working together we can co-ordinate programs such as pest, weed and fire management to do them better and more cost-effectively," she said.

"Land within the corridor will be protected through agreements with landholders, such as those available under the EPA's Nature Refuge Program and local government Voluntary Conservation Agreements," Ms Boyle said.

The MoU won't restrict existing land use and will focus attention on this area as a priority for protection and for potential land purchases by government agencies, she said.

Further information on the MoU and the Flinders to Greenbank/Karawatha Conservation Partnership is available by contacting the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service on 3202 0234.

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