



Department of Primary Industries

Our ref: OUT12/25063

Grahame Orchard
Koolewong and Point Clare – Tascott Progress Association
PO Box 193
WOY WOY NSW 2256

RECEIVED
15 NOV 2012

Dear Sir,

Re: Mangroves on Brisbane Water Drive

Thank you for your letter dated 20 September 2012 requesting comment from NSW Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries) on the above proposal.

NSW DPI is responsible for ensuring that fish stocks are conserved and that there is no net loss of key fish habitats upon which they depend. To achieve this, NSW DPI ensures that developments comply with the requirements of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* (namely the aquatic habitat protection and threatened species provisions in Parts 7 and 7A of the Act, respectively), and the associated *Policy and Guidelines for Aquatic Habitat Management and Fish Conservation (1999)*. In addition, NSW DPI is responsible for ensuring the sustainable management of commercial and recreational fishing in NSW.

Mangroves are considered as marine vegetation under s. 204-205 of the *Fisheries Management Act* and removal requires a permit from the Department.

In the past mangroves have been considerably undervalued. The wetlands in which mangroves occur have been considered 'wastelands'. As a result, many mangrove forests have been cleared, dredged, reclaimed, degraded or otherwise lost.

Mangroves provide shelter for the juveniles and adults of many fish species, including commercially and recreationally important species such as mullet, bream, whiting, luderick, flathead and shellfish such as prawns and crabs. Mangroves also provide habitat for other forms of wildlife including birds.

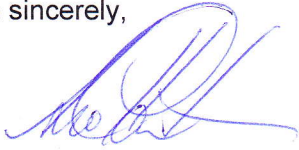
Mangrove trees produce large amounts of organic matter. The fallen leaves, seeds and seedlings enter the waterway and are directly grazed by some small animals. The litter is further broken down by bacteria and fungi. Decaying pieces of debris are eaten by other aquatic animals (e.g. crabs). These in turn provide food for larger fish and other animals.

Mangroves protect coastal land by absorbing the energy of tidal currents and storm-driven wind and wave action, creating a natural breakwater that helps stop erosion. Evidence from major storm and wave events have shown the importance of mangrove forests in reducing storm damage to fragile coastlines and property.

Fisheries NSW do not currently approve the removal of mangroves for aesthetic reasons.

If you require any further information please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Scott Carter', is positioned above the typed name.

Scott Carter
Senior Conservation Manager, Aquatic Habitat Protection Unit

7 November 2012