



REPA NEWSLETTER



RURAL ENVIRONMENT PLANNING ASSOCIATION INC.

Newsletter No. 4/2013

November 2013

The REPA committee extends their very best wishes for Christmas and 2014 to you all. We hope you have a most enjoyable festive season and that we have enough rain, but not too much. The recent rains have greened everywhere up wonderfully. The rain was greatly needed.

Calendars

The popular Wild West Calendars are available again this year. They are produced by four local environment groups and make excellent Christmas gifts with their lovely local photos. Please contact Jenny (phone and email below); price \$12.50. An order form is attached – but be quick as there are not many left.



Invitation to join TTKD End of Year Picnic and Walk – 8 December

Transition Town Kenmore District has extended an invitation to REPA to join them for their “End of Year Picnic and Walk” at the Rafting Ground Reserve on Sunday 8 December starting at 12:30 pm. No booking is necessary, just turn up, with your lunch.

New City Plan

The Brisbane City Council is still busy reviewing the nearly 3000 submissions that were received on the new plan and considering any changes that may be required. When that is finalised, the draft new City Plan will be resubmitted to the State Government for a final review before it can be adopted by Council and a commencement date set. This is expected to be completed in 2014.

Brookfield Village, 139 and 139A Gold Creek Road, DA A003482236

Council approved the proposed changes to the Brookfield Village on 19 September 2013, just after you received the last REPA Newsletter. It is not known when work will begin on the new Residential Aged Care building which forms the centerpiece of the new plans. It is known that Carinity (formerly Queensland Baptist Care) has a responsibility to upgrade its facilities in the near future.

The Brookfield Village land is in a “Particular Development” Area, which allows its use as a retirement village. This meant that the Development Application was made under Code Assessment, and therefore there are no appeal rights.

Development Proposals in Moggill – 1 - Appeals

There are two cases in which REPA has elected to be a Co-Respondent, supporting Council’s refusal of the relevant Development Application.

108 and 126 Weekes Road, Moggill, Appeal 4072 of 2012

This case is progressing. It involves a proposed subdivision of approximately 18 hectares into 49 lots, one of which is large and encompasses all the river bank land. A further court review was held on 11 October 2013, in which: -

- The Co-Respondents, now numbering seven, were asked to provide a consolidated “Grounds for Refusal [of the Appeal]; this has now been done. REPA is grateful for the support and co-operation of the other Co-Respondents;
- Dates were set for disclosure of documents and the nomination of experts; both of these have now been done;
- Dates were set for submission of experts’ reports and dates for Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) hearings; and
- The Appeal is to be allocated to the June 2014 Court sittings

REPA has nominated three experts, in flooding/hydrology, ecology and town planning. Following the submission of the experts’ reports, first those on flooding/hydrology and ecology, there is to be a first ADR session to discuss the possibilities of resolving some of the issues in dispute. Then, after the submission of the town planning reports, a second ADR session is to be held.

As stated previously, REPA’s principal concerns are with the flooding history of the site and the consequent issues relating to any proposed residential development. Not only has the site experienced serious flooding with 65 – 70 % of the site flooded in 2011, but the access along Weekes Road is also cut. Additionally the site is a known koala habitat with a koala having been seen very recently.

3334 Moggill Road, Moggill, Appeal 3383 Of 2012

This case, involving subdivision of approximately 8 hectares of deeply dissected land, appears to have stalled as not enough information has been supplied by the Appellant (the developer). Furthermore there is confusion regarding a separate Development Application (DA) for a parcel of land included in the Appeal case. This separate DA has not been approved, yet there is a "For Sale" sign on the block, 70 Freshwater Place. There is to be a further Court Review on 4 December.

Development Proposals in Moggill – 2 – Other Applications

90, 106 & 134 Priors Pocket Road, Moggill, DAs A003465407 and A003460001

Council has not yet made a decision on these blocks in the Moggill "Koala Assessable Development Area". 90 Priors Pocket Road is adjacent to the land at 3334 Moggill Road, the subject of one of the Appeals mentioned above.

189 Witty Road, Moggill, DA A003540096

REPA has made a submission objecting to this proposal to subdivide 4.17 ha into 25 lots. The land is recognised koala habitat and is part of an important fauna corridor. After the submission period closed the applicant has submitted an ecology report detailing the trees that are planned to be removed and how it is intended to offset the removal of koala trees. REPA is of the opinion that the offsets may not be adequate, even though the offsets are on-site.

Bike-path along Rafting Ground Road and Boscombe Road

Work has started on the construction of the part of the bike-path between Greentrees Avenue and Brookfield School. It is hoped that it will be finished before the start of the 2014 school year.

Bike-path along Gold Creek Road, near the Brookfield roundabout.

Construction of this short section of pathway bridging the small waterway by the roundabout is now finished. It should make conditions for pedestrians, cyclists and horses much safer. Previously there was no option but to use the roadway which is quite restricted in width at that location.

Fauna Friendly Fencing

It has recently been brought to REPA's attention that there is much more fencing around people's land than there used to be, and often this fencing is not very fauna friendly. Many REPA members enjoy having wallabies on their land and there seem to be more of them than there used to be, which may be the result of the recent good seasons. BUT wallabies find fences a problem. Some fences have enough space underneath them for wallabies to get under. Frequently the fences are too high for them to jump over easily. So if you are considering installing some fencing please consider the ramifications of it and how it may affect the wildlife on your property. Brisbane City Council has an on-line Fauna Friendly Fencing Fact Sheet at http://www.brisbane.qld.gov.au/documents/environment/fauna_fact_sheet.pdf, which provides additional information and links.

Reporting koala sightings

If you do see a koala, and there have been a few sightings very recently, please report it. If it is known that there are recent sightings of koalas, it is much more likely that their habitat will be preserved. The best place to report them is to the Daisy Hill Koala Centre, phone **3299 1032**. This phone is answered between 8 am and 4:30 pm. The data is then sent to the Moggill Koala Hospital, and REPA has obtained data from this source. The AKF (Australian Koala Foundation) is also pleased to receive news of any sightings. Photo, David McCullough, REPA Secretary, near his land in Haven Road, Upper Brookfield, November 2013.



Brisbane City Council's Call Centre

The Council's Call Centre, **3403 8888**, is manned 24/7 and is by far the best place to report any concerns regarding inappropriate activities that you may have, such as:-

- Sightings of feral animals such as deer or wild dogs;
- Interference with native vegetation;
- Inappropriate dumping of rubbish; and
- Pollution in creeks.



We wish everyone a very merry Christmas

and a happy New Year

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