



Our ref: 02-039093  
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Mr Derek Recsei  
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HORNSBY HEIGHTS NSW 2077

Dear Mr Recsei

### **NINGALOO COAST**

The Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, Hon Alannah MacTiernan MLA, has asked me to thank you for your letter of 28 February 2008 regarding development along the Ningaloo coast, and to respond on her behalf.

The previous two letters to you from Mr Rob Giles, Chief of Staff, Office of the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure (Ref: 02-034409 and 02-037982), provided you with information regarding the Government's Strategy for the coast. This information was specifically on land tenure changes to create a reserve for conservation and recreation along the coast, the retention, legitimisation and management of coastal camping and access, development limits to and within specified nodes, Marine Park and sanctuary zones. You were also invited to contact the Department for Planning and Infrastructure's Ningaloo Sustainable Development Office for further clarification and detail. This invitation still stands for you to take up if you wish.

In regard to your latest letter, I refer you to the table of information provided in Mr Giles' last letter which illustrates that there are already a number of developments on the coast that were established by the pastoral lessees. The point of the Strategy is to limit development to specified areas (many of which reflect existing use/developed areas that have, to some extent, already had an impact on the natural environment), with the balance of the coast (the majority in fact) being reserved for conservation and recreation.

The Strategy seeks to achieve a balance of a number of principles, which you will find on pages 11 and 12 of the Strategy. For example, I highlight to you the principle of Limits of Acceptable Change. These principles, along with the various guidelines, policies and plans of the Strategy, need to be taken and applied together. The core of the Strategy is to preserve the majority of the coast for conservation and recreation, with limited development within a hierarchy of dispersed nodes, with all such development being limited to low-key, low-impact development, and all higher impact developments such as residential, industrial, marinas etc not being permitted on the coast and being directed to the existing townsites.

The Strategy was prepared with intensive and extensive consultation and is widely accepted as an appropriate response to the values and community expectations for the Ningaloo coast. Further, the Strategy has received recognition through both National and State awards.

In relation to your comments regarding circumstances in New South Wales, I am unable to pass comment.

Again, I invite you to contact the Department's Ningaloo Sustainable Development Office if you require further clarification or detail.

Yours sincerely



Eric Lumsden PSM  
*Director General*

27/13 / 2008