

Maleny Voice

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Obi Obi Protest - Desley Boyle Will Not Protect OUR PLATYPUS Colony

Express your views on the below media release. Email Ms Boyle today.

From: localgovt@cabinet.qld.gov.au
Sent: Thursday, 23 June 2005 2:59 PM
To: Claudia Di Blasi, Caloundra City Council
Subject: Platypus to be protected, but no conservation order

Qld. Media statement
Environment, Local Government, Planning & Women,
Desley Boyle
23/06/05
Platypus to be protected, but no conservation order

Environment Minister Desley Boyle will not impose an Interim Conservation Order on a proposed supermarket site at Maleny as no grounds exist for the action under the Nature Conservation Act. Ms Boyle said the development - while unable to be legally halted - would nonetheless be subject to rigorous controls.

Ms Boyle said: "My advice is that there are no legal grounds to impose an Interim Conservation Order."

"The platypus is plentiful in the area, the habitat not essential for a viable population to continue. As well, the platypus is highly mobile and has an extensive range along the waterway.

"Nonetheless, I am not prepared to see any harm come to the platypus. We are therefore using a range of tools at our disposal to ensure this. I am pleased to see the response from the builder has been positive to date, with the builder and developer both illustrating a will to do the right thing.

"Their employment of noted wildlife expert Dr Frank Carrick is, I believe, a sign of their preparedness to do all possible to protect any platypus on site," Ms Boyle said.

Ms Boyle said the suite of protective measures, included:

- a comprehensive Environmental Management Plan
- strict additional conditions for potential impacts, including the engagement of a suitably qualified and authorised wildlife expert
- ongoing EPA compliance monitoring
- reserving the right to prosecute if any conditions are breached or a platypus is knowingly harmed.

MEDIA CONTACT: Louise Foley on 07 3227 8819

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