



MEDIA RELEASE: 300 EXPERTS AGREE – DON'T BULLDOZE LEE POINT

More than 300 scientists and environmental experts have signed a petition delivered to Minister Tanya Plibersek and other relevant NT and federal politicians calling for an immediate halt to the Defence Housing development at Binybara/Lee Point.

Friends of Lee Point and supporting groups have been protesting to save threatened species and cultural values at Binybara/Lee Point as bulldozers began knocking down old growth woodland trees, for a defence housing development. The work is currently on hold following an urgent injunction from Traditional Owners on Friday July 7 – this halt will apply until July 17 pending a final decision by Minister Plibersek.

The 132.5 ha DHA development will impact on multiple threatened species under the EPBC Act, including the endangered Gouldian finch, the endangered black-footed tree-rat and the northern brushtail possum (listed as vulnerable) and seven migratory shore birds listed with five listed as critically endangered to endangered. The development was given the green light to proceed by Minister Plibersek on the basis of meeting EPBC imposed conditions for threatened species. Experts indicate that the conditions are inadequate.

QUOTES

Professor John Woinarski, Charles Darwin University

"Every population is important for Gouldian Finches because we haven't saved the species yet, to destroy this population is simply outrageous."

Professor Euan Ritchie, Deakin University

"It is a national disgrace that Australia's citizens are forced to take such action [protesting] in order to ensure the conservation of Australia's precious wildlife, threatened species, and First Nations Peoples' bioculture"

ENDS

Attachments

Copy of petition

Relevant people for comment:

Scientific experts and ESA delegates

- Professor Euan Ritchie, Deakin University
- Professor John Woinarski, Charles Darwin University
- Professor Martine Maron, University of Queensland



Supporting groups for Save Binaburra/ Lee Point

- Ian Redmond and Dr Amanda Lilleyman - Friends of Lee Point
- Dr Kirsty Howey – Environment Centre NT
- Brittany Hayward-Brown - BirdLife Top End
- Graeme Sawyer - Biodiversity watch

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