

26 September 2025

Deputy Premier
Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning
Minister for Industrial Relations
C/- Director, Improvement and Assessment Division Planning Group
Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning

Email: ministerialcallin@dsdilgp.qld.gov.au
PO Box 15009 CITY EAST QLD 4002

Re: Proposed Ministerial Call In of a development application for Coast Entertainment Operations Limited (Dreamworld) at Lot 103 Whitewater Way and Lots 2 and 3 Dreamworld Parkway, Coomera QLD 4209

Dear Deputy Premier,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission regarding the proposed call-in of Coast Entertainment's development application to expand Dreamworld. The proposed development will have a significant impact on Matters of State Environmental Significance and Matters of National Environmental Significance warranting referral for assessment under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act.

The Queensland Conservation Council (QCC), established in 1969, is the peak body for conservation in Queensland, representing over 50 member groups across the state. We are a trusted community voice advocating for strong protections for nature, equitable climate resilience, and a just transition to clean energy.

We urgently seek a meeting with you to discuss the proposed Ministerial Call in to assess the development application by Coast Entertainment Operations Limited, with respect to premises located at Lot 103 Whitewater Way and Lots 2 and 3 Dreamworld Parkway, Coomera. This proposed development will be catastrophic for the endangered koala and we would like to discuss this matter urgently with you.

The Queensland Conservation Council acknowledges that we meet and work across the many lands of Queensland. We wish to pay respect to their Elders - past and present - and acknowledge the important role all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people play in protecting, conserving and sustaining Queensland.

The use of Ministerial Call-In Powers in this case undermines the integrity of Queensland's planning system and sets a dangerous precedent. These powers are intended to be used sparingly and only in exceptional circumstances—not as a tool to fast-track controversial private developments that would otherwise be subject to local scrutiny and independent assessment.

Calling in the Dreamworld expansion removes the decision from the local government and the community by preventing challenges to the decision in the Planning and Environment Court, essentially silencing those most affected by the project. This is particularly troubling when there is significant community concern, and when the development has substantial environmental and social impacts that demand close and transparent examination.

QCC and the organisations signed below are deeply concerned about the ecological impacts of the proposed development, in particular the impacts to koalas, glossy black cockatoos and powerful owls.

Dreamworld is situated near and within ecologically sensitive areas that provide a critical buffer against the urban sprawl of the Gold Coast. Any further development must be carefully weighed against the long-term ecological damage it could inflict, and in this instance the impacts to local koala populations will be catastrophic.

The increase in noise pollution, light pollution, and waste generation associated with the proposed development will also have lasting effects on the surrounding environment. The scale and intensity of the proposed expansion and the multiple proposed uses, including but not limited to, residential, commercial and aviation represent significant and cumulative impacts on biodiversity, habitats and threatened species. Furthermore, any construction near the Coomera River or similar waterways risks polluting vital water systems, which could harm aquatic biodiversity and affect broader environmental health.

This expansion cannot be considered in isolation. It contributes to a growing pattern of overdevelopment in the northern Gold Coast corridor. Without a comprehensive, integrated regional plan that prioritizes sustainability and community needs, piecemeal expansions like this one will continue to erode the character and liveability of the region.

One of the most urgent concerns is the likely destruction or fragmentation of koala habitat in the area surrounding the Dreamworld site. The Gold Coast and surrounding regions are home to a rapidly declining koala population, due to continued urban encroachment, habitat loss, vehicle strikes, dog attacks, and disease. Thus it is important to consider the cumulative impacts of the development to ensure it is achieving ecological sustainability.

The proposed expansion risks clearing remnant eucalyptus trees and critical wildlife corridors that are essential for koala movement, feeding, and breeding. Disruption to these habitats could contribute directly to localised extinction events, further pushing this already endangered species toward collapse in the region.

The Queensland Government's own Koala Conservation Strategy recognises the urgent need to retain, protect, and rehabilitate remaining koala habitat. Approving a development that works in opposition to that strategy — for the sake of commercial entertainment — would represent a short-sighted and damaging decision.

Natural dispersal during clearing of this site will not be possible without significant losses to the local population. Koalas are already trapped across the Dreamworld, Coomera Woods and Coomera Connector (stage 2) sites with no escape route and more development planned.

There is no safe connectivity from the Dreamworld site to other suitable koala habitat in the surrounding area. Koalas have nowhere to go, except onto neighbouring land already set aside for Coomera Connector, the Coomera River or onto the existing M1. Perhaps a handful of individuals will be lucky and successfully cross Foxwell road without vehicle strike. However, this site known as Coomera Woods, is also planned for development.

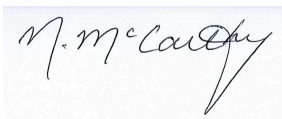
We urge you to **not** call-in this application and enable a fulsome, rigorous and transparent assessment of the proposed development, with a requirement for independent assessment, referral to EPBC Act and retaining the ability for community scrutiny and consultation.

Kind regards,



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