

# The state government was correct with Noosa on Weyba declaration

The team behind the proposed Noosa on Weyba residential community have confirmed that the State Government's decision to declare the project as a Biodiversity Offset Area (BDOA) will be upheld.

Noosa on Weyba's claims come after incorrect reports by a community group who said the former Minister of Planning Paul Lucas did not have the authority to grant the declaration.

The Friends of Lake Weyba group raised concerns earlier this year about the Minister's authority claiming that the BDOA was not properly assessed by the State Government. Following this, Noosa on Weyba development director Steve MacRae sought independent legal advice to ensure the development application was on solid ground.

"We asked a senior QC to independently review the process, legislation and regulations used by both our team and the Queensland Department of Planning (DSDIP)," he said.

"The result is that we have been advised that the BDOA was properly declared and is 100 per cent legal."

In early 2012, the State

Government declared Noosa on Weyba a BDOA, providing the opportunity to transfer development rights from part of the site to another in the interest of biodiversity conservation if Council approved the development application.

Under the BDOA, the team has agreed to gift 139.5 hectares of valuable koala habitat and waterfront land back to Noosa National Park, increasing the total size of the park's Eenie Creek section by 87 per cent, at no cost to the community.

"Our BDOA is the only one issued in Queensland to date," he said. "Over 18 months, the proposal was reviewed by all levels of government and a variety of different departments.

"The Minister for Planning decided that it would be of substantial community benefit to protect the land by transferring it to National Park.

"To consider that the approval was flawed in some way is incorrect. Our position has been vindicated by specialist senior legal advice."

The BDOA has also received support from relevant Ministers of the Newman Government.



Australia's leading koala expert Dr Frank Carrick who supports the Noosa on Weyba proposed plan

The BDOA and the proposed Noosa on Weyba project will not only increase the size of the National Park, but also provide access to an isolated section of the park which has been inaccessible to the public.

The project's approval will link the expanded park with the existing Council owned Noosa Wildlife Refuge that is bound to the west by Walter Hay Drive, via a new 270-metre-wide wildlife

corridor at the Tidswell Road intersection.

The nature corridor will allow wildlife of all types to safely traverse this large area of park and refuge as supported and drafted by renowned koala expert Dr Frank Carrick.

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service will manage the 139.5 hectare waterfront site once it has been gifted to the State. The approval of the Noosa on Weyba

development will also see, at the developer's cost, rehabilitation of 8 hectares of the site.

"Not only are we gifting substantial parcels of land to the community," Mr MacRae said.

"But we will be rehabilitating the land at no cost to the community. We feel very privileged to be able to do this."

For more information please visit [noosaonweyba.com.au](http://noosaonweyba.com.au).