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## Forest sale 'will protect future'

Alan Lander | 29th March 2010

COAST councillor Anna Grosskreutz is one person not fazed by the State Government's decision to sell off 33,000 hectares of forest in her division.

She believes it could open the door to a scheme which will protect the area for future generations.

The government recently announced it planned to sell the timber growing on hinterland plantations west of the Bruce Highway, leading some to think a buyer could be on an inside track for major residential development opportunities.

Climate Change and Sustainability Minister Kate Jones has guaranteed the forest land will never become a sea of homes – at least while the South-East Queensland Regional Plan is in place.

Cr Grosskreutz said her long-held vision was a land-swap to allow development running on an east-west axis following the proposed CAMCOS rail corridor, rather than continuing south into the environmentally-sensitive land at Halls Creek, leading to Pumicestone Passage.

Her vision has been to create a Greater Glasshouse Mountains Protection Zone which would connect the mountains down to the passage, while still allowing some growth of towns like Beerburrum, Glasshouse Mountains village and Beerwah.

It would also lock in protection for the area, ensuring the all-important inter-urban break between the Coast and Caboolture was preserved.

"We could have development heading east-west, not north-south." Cr Grosskreutz said

"The land is not in flood zones and the pine forests are not environmentally sound."

She said she had been trying to convince councillors and staff of the vision for years "and now they are starting to get it".

"This can leave the protection zone for everyone. The mountains and the (already protected) Pumicestone Passage are two of the most beautiful areas in the region," she said. "We can play amongst them but not over-develop them. There are other areas ready for development but not to the south."

Cr Grosskreutz also took a swipe at the Liberal National Party opposition, accusing it of losing its perspective and attacking the council instead of the State Government.

While there was a communication "disconnect" between the government and the Sunshine Coast, the LNP was part of the problem, not the solution, she said.

"The disconnect is not helped when you have got LNP MPs saying you've got to march in order to oppose everything," she said.

"Continuing to whinge all the time gets you nowhere."



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[Add a Comment](#) »**Posted by atapro from Sunshine Coast & Region, Queensland**29 March 2010 10:48 a.m. | [Suggest removal](#) » | [Post reply](#) »

Am I the only one who doesn't have the foggiest what the good Councillor is proposing.

"...a land-swap to allow development running on an east-west axis following the proposed CAMCOS rail corridor, rather than continuing south..."

East west...from where to where? How many people are going to be crammed in there? Where are they going to work? Is it allowable under the new SEQ Regional Plan?

So many questions...so few answers.

**Posted by brianbarry123 from Maroochydore, Queensland**29 March 2010 12:06 p.m. | [Suggest removal](#) » | [Post reply](#) »

I can understand what Anna is trying to do. She wants the development to follow the camcos route instead of using all of stocklands land and extending into Caloundra South.

Currently the route between Beerwah and Caloundra runs from Beerwah through a lot of state forest (slash pine) area before hitting the highway and then stockland land.

Anna's idea appears to move the population along the transportation corridor. Something that happens elsewhere in the world but not in the smart state as our planners are still trying to work out what mixed use is all about.

Good idea Anna. Keep pushing sooner or later someone in the staff will click onto the idea.

**Posted by Lorelei from Yandina Creek, Queensland**29 March 2010 1:38 p.m. | [Suggest removal](#) » | [Post reply](#) »

I am very sceptical about the SEQ Plan protecting any land, particularly such a large parcel. The last time I read the document, the preamble made it quite clear that any use of the areas currently green or pink could be changed by the Government in Council. It seems to me that the only requirement for this to happen, is for a big monied visionary to come up with a plan and the G in C changes their plan to suit. In the case of the Coolool Ridges development, this was a ground breaking water sustainability plan for the development. I would lay money that even as we ponder the statement of Ms Grosskreutz, there is some-one-some-where with a plan that is good enough to persuade the Government to use the timber land for development. Maybe this is not all bad but there is no certainty guaranteed by the SEQ Plan. Full stop

**Posted by echidna from Wurtulla, Queensland**29 March 2010 1:43 p.m. | [Suggest removal](#) » | [Post reply](#) »

The land will be homes just as soon as the regional plan is changed which happens all the time.

The developers will get their hands on the whole lot.

Minister Jones will just get an advisor to sign a few letters saying the changes were unforeseeable at the time they sold the land and it is now too late to save anything.

Our good Councillor is either niece or a developers best friend.

**Posted by hermes from Mountain Creek, Queensland**29 March 2010 2:05 p.m. | [Suggest removal](#) » | [Post reply](#) »

er, instead of selling off forests, which provide valuable habitat and other environmental benefits (even plantations): why not allow cane farmers to develop the parts of their land above flood level, in exchange for revegetating flood-prone sections with native melaleuca? Degraded canelands perform virtually no environmental, social or economic purposes, but for no logical reason, are apparently sacrasanct in Council's eyes. It's fine to cut down forest, even native forest, but touch some grubby old paddock, shock horror, never!!!

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**Posted by theymp from Gympie, Queensland**

29 March 2010 4 p.m. | [Suggest removal »](#) | [Post reply »](#)

I hope the councillor is right and something sensible is done when at least a lot of this 33000hectares is put under housing, and it will be.

To think that this government was planning anything else is just beyond belief, and that fact is probably best seen by the deceit in the 'selling trees not land' line they tried.

How or when it's done is anybody's guess but I bet it isn't done in a smart way, this is Queensland, we have a duty to protect the reputation of doing things about as badly as possible.

**Posted by dowhatjohn from Bli Bli, Queensland**

29 March 2010 5:41 p.m. | [Suggest removal »](#) | [Post reply »](#)

Brisbane has run out of developable land. Land to the west and south is running out fast. The only place left to develop residential commuter land is to the north. CAMCOS will support that development. Caloundra will become a dormitory suburb of Brisbane.

**Posted by john\_fogarty from Caloundra, Queensland**

29 March 2010 7:05 p.m. | [Suggest removal »](#) | [Post reply »](#)

The only snag about the CAMCOS railway line is that it will never be built .

**Posted by tonyryan from Maroochydore Bc, Queensland**

29 March 2010 8:01 p.m. | [Suggest removal »](#) | [Post reply »](#)

This is like watching Charlie Brown run to kick the ball, assured by Lucy that this time it will be there to kick.

It never has and it never will.

Likewise, no ALP Minister or councillor in living memory has protected Queenslander's interests. Developers pay for 70% of election campaign funds, and government at all levels exists to transfer the people's property to the powerful elite.

But don't listen to me, Charlie Brown. Go ahead and kick.

**Posted by Jarrod\_Blejje from Maroochydore, Queensland**

29 March 2010 9:10 p.m. | [Suggest removal »](#) | [Post reply »](#)

Re Councillor Grosskreutz statement "The disconnect is not helped when you have got LNP MPs saying you've got to march in order to oppose everything," she said.

Actually Anna, we march (and when I say we march I am talking about 2000 people mainly from your electorate) that marched FOR the Sunshine Coast University Hospital not opposing it as you make out. I'm reminded of the fact that the hospital site is located in your council boundary. What have you done to FIGHT for the hospital to be delivered as originally promised by the State government or does your cosy relationship with the state government prevent you from fighting the good fight?

Jarrold Blejje MP  
Member for Kawana

**Posted by curriman from Currimundi, Queensland**

29 March 2010 10:01 p.m. | [Suggest removal »](#) | [Post reply »](#)

Another Anna, and yet again money speak very loudly and has long reaching influences.

Lets keep it green. Vote to keep our forests.

**Posted by bluepoet from Bundaberg West, Queensland**

30 March 2010 3:18 a.m. | [Suggest removal »](#) | [Post reply »](#)

I am very sceptical about what any of our decision makers say nowadays after years of being sold lies and halftruths. They talk another language completely and one that needs no conscience to support it.All i know is we are good at is pulling down paradise and putting up parking lots. Thank You.

**Posted by tonyryan from Maroochydore Bc, Queensland**

30 March 2010 8:19 a.m. | [Suggest removal »](#) | [Post reply »](#)

"You can't fool all of the people all of the time."

Well... it seems that the polly-speak and lies are finally becoming too transparent to sustain our overpaid servants of the developers.

Glancing back over history, it seems to me there have never been more protests by ordinary middle class Queenslanders.

Could it be that the theft of Queenslander's resources has finally pushed citizens to direct action? Do we now reclaim democracy? I hope so.

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