



Land sale threat to Pooh Cnr roos

By **BRAD WEIER**
bweier@qt.com.au

A STINK is brewing over a parcel of land affectionately known as Pooh Corner.

The 138ha site at Wacol is being sold by the federal government as part of a two-parcel package which is expected to be transformed into an industrial estate.

Under state laws, the land cannot be cleared because it is home to endangered regional ecosystems.

The government's request to have the 138ha site reclassified was yesterday dismissed by the action group Friends of Pooh Corner.

Spokeswoman Nikki Plant said the site, between Wacol Station Road and the Ipswich Motorway was home to a large population of eastern grey kangaroos.

"You cannot turn an apple into an orange," Miss Plant said.

"The endangered ecosystem is what it is and our advice to potential developers is that the reclassification will not go ahead.

"Because it's publicly owned land with a high conservation value — and a proven conser-

confident the protected land would be maintained.

"There is already a state government rule in place that the land cannot be cleared," Mr Thompson said.

"I see value in that because it means the land will be protected in the future.

"If someone is going to buy the land and think they are able to find a commercial use for it then we will go to public consultation so people can have their say."

Meanwhile, Federal Member for Oxley Bernie Ripoll urged the government to shelve its plans for the land sale.

"Once this land has been sold — more than likely to property developers — it will be very difficult to protect in the future," Mr Ripoll said during a tour of the site.

...there should have been a public consultation process...

vation value — there should have been a public consultation process before the 'For Sale' signs even went up."

Representatives from Friends of Pooh Corner yesterday discussed their concerns with Federal Member for Blair Cameron Thompson.

Mr Thompson said he was

Nikki Plant and Friends of Pooh Corner are out to save a 138-hectare parcel of land at Wacol.

Photo: Ian Francis AP1205FP