



Bernie Ripoll MP
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Federal government must protect 'pooh corner'

THE federal government must shelve its plan to sell Department of Defence land at Wacol affectionately known as 'pooh corner', Bernie Ripoll, Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Infrastructure and Member for Oxley, said today.

Mr Ripoll said 'Pooh Corner' is an endangered woodland ecosystems and the natural habitat for Brisbane's remaining population of eastern grey kangaroos and should remain in public ownership.

"I call on the federal government to stop the sale of this land and protect it from development," he said.

"Once this land has been sold, more than likely to property developers, it will be very difficult to protect in the future," he said.

"If the Federal Government is keen to off load the land, then perhaps they can gift it to the State Government to ensure its protection rather than selling to a private developer.

"This is just another reason why the Department of Defence should have undertaken a comprehensive community consultation process before the site was put up for sale.

"The Defence Minister and his Parliamentary Secretary have comprehensively botched this process and the public may pay a huge price for their incompetence," he said.

Mr Ripoll's comments came after he was taken on a tour of the site today by representatives of a local community-based conservation group called the Friends of Pooh Corner.

'Pooh Corner' is located adjacent to Wacol Station Road, Wacol in Brisbane's south-western suburbs. It is one of two large parcels of land in Wacol which the federal government has listed for sale by tender, closing 27 April 2005. The other site, Sanananda Barracks, is located adjacent to Ipswich Motorway.

**For further comment call Bernie Ripoll on 0418 763 351
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Media Release