



2017/1140-LJM
COPY

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Parliament House
State Square
Darwin NT 0800
minister.moss@nt.gov.au

GPO Box 3146
Darwin NT 0801
Telephone: 08 8936 5532
Facsimile: 08 8936 5637

Dr Paul Vogel
Chair
Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority
GPO Box 3675
DARWIN NT 0801

Dear Dr Vogel

I am writing to inform you that I have received advice from the Hon Ken Vowles MLA, Minister for Primary Industry and Resources, regarding the protection of the Howard Sand Plains.

Minister Vowles has created a priority protected area within the Howard Sand Plains Site of Conservation Significance zone as per Option 2 of your report: *Recommendations Concerning Preservation of the Threatened Biodiversity of the Howard Sand Plains Site of Conservation Significance*. This area will protect important Territory biodiversity by ceasing any further sand mining within that protected area, but allow sand mining in other areas of the Howard Sand Plains.

Actions to remediate existing disturbances in the Howard Sand Plains protected area, and full vacation from that area by the extractive Industry, commenced on 1 July 2017, with a five year period provided to complete that process.

The Department of Primary Industry and Resources has advised the Extractive Industry Association and is in the process of advising all affected tenure holders in the Howard Sand Plains to assist them with vacating the priority protected area.

Yours sincerely

LAUREN MOSS

3 July 2017