

File: CTS10253/10
Cultural Heritage Coordination Unit
Phone 07 3239 3653

Department of
**Environment and Resource
Management**

28 June 2010

Mr Robert & Ms Sharon Lohse
Springvale
Brooweena QLD 4620

Dear Mr & Mrs Lohse

Investigation into alleged harm to Aboriginal cultural heritage

Thank you for your letter dated 4 June 2010, relating to allegations of harm to a cultural heritage site referred to in your letter as the Kogan Bora Rings arising from activities conducted by the Queensland Gas Company.

As requested in your letter, the Cultural Heritage Coordination Unit has investigated the allegations of harm to Aboriginal Cultural Heritage. The findings of this investigation are as follows:

- Clearance work was undertaken by the Queensland Gas Company in accordance with a cultural heritage agreement established between the company and the Barunggam traditional owners;
- A Cultural Heritage Officer employed by the Company to identify Aboriginal cultural heritage, undertook the appropriate surveys of the areas between December 2009 and January 2010, prior to the commencement of clearance work;
- An Inspection Report was completed by the Cultural Heritage Officer which included recommendations associated with the avoidance and management of identified cultural heritage sites, as well as monitoring of ground disturbance activities; and
- Activities were undertaken by the Queensland Gas Company in accordance with these recommendations including the relocation of Company well sites to avoid identified cultural heritage places.

Cc:

Ms Maxine Bell
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Based on the information provided to the department, the activities undertaken by the Queensland Gas Company have been assessed to have complied with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act (2003) Duty of Care Guidelines*.

In light of the allegations of harm to a significant cultural heritage site, the Queensland Gas Company has engaged Dr John Craib (Archaeologist), to undertake a further survey of the area affected by the ground disturbance to confirm the exact location and extent of the Kogan Stone Arrangement including the Kogan Bora Rings. Dr Craib is the current technical advisor to the Barunggam traditional owners.

Should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me on (07) 3238 3835.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read 'Isabel Tarrago', is written over a horizontal line.

Isabel Tarrago

**Director
Cultural Heritage Coordination Unit
Indigenous Services**