

Thursday 18 July 2019



The Hon Leeanne Enoch
Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef,
Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts
GPO Box 5078
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Minister Enoch,

I am writing to you in my capacity as CEO of the Keep Australia Beautiful National Association (KAB) to determine if there is any support from the Queensland Government for our programs.

KAB is a national not for profit organisation and a registered charity with the ACNC. It consists of a federation of the Keep Australia Beautiful organizations in each State and Territory, **except Queensland.**

The previous Keep Australia Beautiful Qld that was part of the KAB family resigned in 2016. The business known as "*Community Projects Qld*" has been allowed to register the name "*Keep Qld Beautiful*" and is now running its own activities under that name in Queensland.

It is most important you know this business is **not** part of and has no relationship whatsoever with "Keep Australia Beautiful". No-one should deal with this business in the belief it is part of or somehow related to KAB and its members. It has no shared projects or activities with the "real" Keep Australia Beautiful family and is entirely separate from them.

Keep Australia Beautiful National Association conducts the National Litter Index (NLI) each year and has done for the past 15 years. This is done in collaboration with each state and territory government with data and results being provided to Qld Department of Environment and Science twice each year.

The Keep Australia Beautiful National Association has been running the **National Tidy Towns Awards** program for regional towns across Australia since 1990. It has now been rebadged **Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns** to better reflect the breadth of the program and to capture the environmental and community spirit aspect which is more than the former Tidy Towns name suggests.

These National awards are a culmination of all the State winning towns that come together to vie for the coveted title of Australia's Tidiest Town and to network and share their learnings and experiences. The next awards event will be hosted by the 2019 national winners - the community of Santa Teresa (Ltyentye Apurte) in the Northern Territory on 21 & 22 April 2020.

KAB has not had a Queensland entry for the Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns awards since 2016. We are of the opinion that it is not a truly national program if the regional towns in the beautiful state of Queensland have not been given the opportunity to be included.

To this end, earlier this month, we contacted all of the regional councils in Qld with an invitation to enter the competition through the National body (at this time) utilizing the same criteria and categories as the national awards program. The National body will provide assessors to complete a desktop assessment of entries and select a winning town for Queensland. That town will then have the opportunity to enter the National Awards and compete against the other state winners. We have already received several positive responses so far.

In addition, KAB is also proposing to re-invigorate Keep Australia Beautiful's most iconic campaign, *Do the Right Thing*. First launched in 1979, *Do the Right Thing* is an environmental campaign that was widely acclaimed as the most successful behaviour change campaign in Australian history. It is our intention to produce a generic national version with the opportunity to add specific state vision using recognizable State iconic locations and local heroes if there is enough support from each state.

I would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss some of the programs that we are successfully running in other states that could also be rolled out in Queensland if we had sufficient support. For example, NSW and SA have excellent education programs for schools and NT have been delivery effective programs designed for remote indigenous communities. Please do not hesitate to contact me on Sch 4 - Personal Information or by email to ceo@kab.org.au if you would like to discuss further.

Yours sincerely,

Sch 4 - Signatures

Val Southam
CEO
Keep Australia Beautiful National Association

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

MEETING BRIEF – MINISTER

SUBJECT Meeting with Keep Australia Beautiful

Date: 8 August 2019

Time: 2.00pm

Attendees: Mrs Val Southam, Chief Executive Officer – Keeping Australia Beautiful (KAB)
Mr Pravin Menon, Executive Director, Office of Resource Recovery

Purpose of meeting: To discuss the request for Queensland government support of KAB programs in Queensland.

Summary of the issues:

- Other state jurisdictions have a strong public KAB presence through their education and engagement initiatives.
- While KAB is a national association, the state branches operate independently, with their own funding and operational structures.
- KAB has strong relationships with jurisdictional environment departments and operates within varied frameworks:
 - KAB Victoria is a member of the Victorian Litter Action Alliance (VLAA). VLAA provides a lead role in coordinating the effort and building the capability of litter managers;
 - Keep South Australia Beautiful has partnerships with both state and local government and runs an array of programs including school education and bin audits; and
 - Keep NSW Beautiful programs include Sustainable Communities, Sustainable Cities, various education programs under the EnviroMentors, and Keep New South Wales Beautiful hosts an annual Litter Congress.
- These relationships with partnering state environment departments have been effective in providing frameworks to ensure:
 - Long term commitment from government;
 - Long term planning and evaluation of programs; and
 - Significant funding levels and operational resources.

KAB in Queensland

- KAB once had a Queensland presence through the Keep Queensland Beautiful (KQB) branch.
- The Queensland branch has had minimal public presence in Queensland, and even less so since 2016 when the KQB disassociated itself from the national organisation KAB. KAB has advised the Department of Environment and Science (DES) that the name “Keep Queensland Beautiful” has since been registered by a business known as “Community Projects Qld” which is not affiliated with KAB.
- In the past KQB had been funded by DES through grant programs, however has not successfully secured grant funding since 2013–2014.
- KQB’s website continues to show programs for Tidy Towns, Cleaner Greener Schools, and Adopt-a-Spot, however it is unclear if these programs are still operational, as many of the website links are disconnected.
- The Department of Transport and Main Roads ceased the yearly funding allocation for the Adopt-a-Spot program around 2015–2016.
- DES currently funds the annual KAB National Litter Index (NLI).
- The National Litter Industry has recently undergone a review process, initiated by Meeting of Environment Ministers and the final review report has been provided by CSIRO.

- The continued funding of the NLI in Queensland is currently being considered, however is unlikely in its current state.

Points of relevance:

- s.78B(2)
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- It is unclear as to what programs KAB intend to operate in Queensland and what level of support is being requested from DES.
- It is also unclear if KAB's ongoing presence in Queensland would require a new Queensland branch to be formed, which would operate in competition to KQB.
- The establishment of the Litter and Illegal Dumping Programs and Compliance units and the introduction of the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011* have enabled the Queensland Government to better meet the expectation of the broader community on the management of litter and illegal dumping.
- The *Litter and Illegal Dumping; A Plan for Queensland* (under development) (the Plan) identifies how all Queenslanders can work together to combat litter and illegal dumping across the state. The Plan is due to be finalised in early 2020.
- The Plan includes a clear chain of responsibility and enables the issues to be addressed individually and collectively across Queensland.
- Once finalised, the Plan and its actions, will support the broader targets under the *Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy for Queensland*.
- Current funding arrangements to deliver the Plan have been secured through a Cabinet Budget Review Committee allocation of \$11.5 for 2018–2019 to 2021–2022.
- This funding was not allocated to provide extensive support for organisations such as KAB.
- If funding was to be taken from this allocation, it would divert funds from much needed local and state government support programs, community targeted intervention programs and other community initiatives.

CURRENT POSITION

- DES recognises a KAB absence in Queensland.
- s.78B(2)
- DES would require a detailed scope for the KAB request for support in order to make an informed decision, including:
 - details of current programs operated by both KAB and KQB, and information to address the planned measures to prevent public confusion or replication of programs in Queensland; and
 - details of the viability for KAB's continued operation in Queensland in the absence of government funding.
- DES is undertaking extensive partnerships and programs with Queensland jurisdictions and local communities to address litter and illegal dumping through the Litter and Illegal Dumping Plan.
- DES has limited resources available to provide support to KAB, however funding may be secured through grant programs, such as the Community Sustainability Action Grants or future scheduled litter and illegal dumping grant programs.
- Ongoing funding commitments are not able to be made under current DES budget allocations.

Date : 19/08/2019 4:34:02 PM

From : "Angus Sutherland"

To : "ceo@kab.org.au"

Cc : "Hannah Jackson" , "Environment"

Subject : RE: Follow Up

Attachment :

image002.png;image013.jpg;image014.png;image015.jpg;image016.jpg;image017.jpg;image018.jpg;image019.jpg;image020.png;image021.jpg;image003.png;
Hi Val,

Thanks for meeting with the Minister and for providing this information.

We look forward to getting further updates particularly with regard to the Litter index and as you roll out the revamped **Do the right thing** campaign.

Kind regards
Angus



Angus Sutherland
Senior Policy Advisor
Office of the Hon. Leeanne Enoch MP
Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef,
Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts
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From: Val Southam - KAB CEO <ceo@kab.org.au>

Sent: Friday, 16 August 2019 12:08 PM

To: Amanda Chiv <Amanda.Chiv@ministerial.qld.gov.au>

Subject: Follow Up

Hello Amanda

I just wanted to follow up after my meeting with Minister Enoch and thank you for organising this. It was a very good meeting and the Minister was very supportive of our plans for Queensland. The Minister was interested to hear about our National Eco-Schools program which is endorsed by UNEP and UNESCO and run in over 70 countries around the world. In particular I advised that the first two internationally accredited Green Flag Schools in Australia were awarded last year and were both in Queensland but I could not recall the names. They were Tinana State School in Maryborough and Bell State Primary in Bell.

If you need any further information please let me know.

Kind regards

Val



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Keep Australia Beautiful
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