



**Hon Andrew McNamara MP**  
Member for Hervey Bay



**Minister for Sustainability,  
Climate Change and Innovation**

29 MAY 2008

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letters of 30 April and 14 May 2008 regarding Petition No. 1010-08, 1016-08 and 1047-08 concerning plans to redevelop the Regent Theatre, Brisbane.

The petition notes that the Regent Theatre is listed on the Brisbane City Council's (BCC) list of significant buildings, and requests that the House recognise the heritage value of the Theatre and act to protect the building in its present form.

In addition to the Theatre's status on the BCC's heritage list, I can advise that part of the Regent Theatre complex is entered in the Queensland Heritage Register and receives the protection afforded by the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* (QH Act). The balance of the complex was subject to major changes between 1979 and 1980 when the current four cinema arrangement was installed, and before the Goss Government introduced legislation protecting heritage places in 1992.

While the recent development proposal confirmed an intention to conserve the heritage-listed section, the significance of the balance of the site had been examined by the Queensland Heritage Council (QHC) in December 2007. The QHC decided that the 1980-era installation had altered the building to such a degree that it could not satisfy the strict standards required by the QH Act. The threshold for entry in the Queensland Heritage Register for a place of State heritage significance is substantial, and the extent to which a nominated place remains intact is a key element for the QHC to consider.

Relocated or surviving traces of the original theatre were not sufficient to meet that standard; however, on 25 February 2008 the Deputy Premier and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning exercised his powers under the *Integrated Planning Act 1997* to direct that the BCC condition any approval of the proposed works on the retention of the 1980 cinema complex housed within the auditorium.

In this particular instance, two legislative tools were used to resolve the issue. The high standards that must be met to attract protection by the QH Act were properly applied by the QHC, and Queensland's planning legislation was subsequently employed to reflect the local Brisbane community's attachment to this part of the city.

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Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention. If any further information is required, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Peter Hutchison of the Environmental Protection Agency on telephone 3227 6492.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew McNamara". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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