



**Hon Judy Spence MP**  
Member for Mt Gravatt  
Ref: MC08.1970



**Minister for Police, Corrective Services  
and Sport**

**- 8 SEP 2008**

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 16 May 2008, regarding a petition (Ref: 1061-08) from Principal Petitioner, Ms Lisa Maree Kempe, received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 14 March 2008 concerning the proposed closure of the Seaforth Active Recreation Centre.

On 16 January 2008, the Service Delivery Performance Commission report on the former Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The report recommended that the Department of Sport and Recreation divest the Christmas Creek, Ficks Crossing, Lake Julius, Seaforth and Storm King Dam Recreation Centres.

The centres were recommended for divestment due to a number of site limitations which inhibited their future development to achieve Departmental outcomes. These limitations include being difficult to access, remoteness of the sites, inability to attract and retain staff and difficulty in maintaining the infrastructure to appropriate safety standards. These Centres have low occupancy rates with most averaging less than ten (10) percent.

All Centres have been promoted to the key target markets being schools and sport and recreation organisations. The Centres have also been marketed to the broader community through the Department of Sport and Recreation's web site, local newspapers, at events such as the Ekka and through tourism and community web sites.

In the first instance the Seaforth Active Recreation Centre (the Centre) was offered to local government providing Council with the opportunity to take over these facilities. The basis of this offer involved the transfer of the Trusteeship for the Reserves of the Centre to Council.

On 18 July 2008, Council advised it would not be accepting the offer, therefore, interested parties, including community organisations, will now have an opportunity to take on the site, before proceeding to the final option of divestment which will be at market value.

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Any proceeds from the sale will be reinvested into funding programs addressing the Government's key priorities of healthy and active communities and increased participation for all Queenslanders.

Mr Tim Condon, Acting Director, Recreation Centre Development, Department of Sport and Recreation is available on telephone (07) 3237 9623 for any further assistance required.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judy Spence". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial 'J'.

**Judy Spence MP**  
Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Sport