



Hon Andrew McNamara MP
Member for Hervey Bay



**Queensland
Government**

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

Ref: BNE35159-1
BNE2008/
SU/08/5899

23 DEC 2008

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Corner Alice and George Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 4 December 2008 concerning Petition No. 1180-08 requesting the establishment of an artificial reef off Redcliffe Peninsula.

The Queensland Government has committed \$1 million for the development of trial artificial reefs in Moreton Bay Marine Park. These trial artificial reefs are intended to provide additional high quality opportunities for recreational fishing and, in part, to offset the loss of access through the rezoning of the Moreton Bay Marine Park to some locations used for recreational fishing.

The Environmental Protection Agency undertook an extensive analysis of possible artificial reef sites within Moreton Bay including constraints imposed by depth, existing uses, and the value of naturally occurring habitat. Based on these studies and consultation with peak recreational fishing groups including Sunfish, three sites were selected as having the highest priority for development.

The sites selected are the existing Harry Atkinson Artificial Reef, an area east of Bribie Island, and another north of Moreton Island. These sites will provide opportunities for different types of recreational fishing. For example, the Harry Atkinson Artificial Reef will cater to the small boat fisher seeking mid water fish such as snapper and sweetlip, in an easily accessible and relatively sheltered location. The site east of Bribie Island will be in deeper water and will be designed to attract pelagic species such as tuna, mackerel and billfish. The site north of Moreton Island will be in shallower water and will be available for spear fishing.

The existing budget would not be sufficient to cover the development of an additional artificial reef elsewhere in Moreton Bay, even if a suitable site could be located.

Level 17
160 Ann Street Brisbane 4000
PO Box 15155 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3336 8032
Facsimile +61 7 3227 6309
Email sustainability@ministerial.qld.gov.au
ABN 65 959 415 158

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely

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

**Andrew McNamara MP
Minister for Sustainability,
Climate Change and Innovation**