



Hon Kate Jones MP

Member for Ashgrove

- 2 OCT 2009

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



**Queensland
Government**

**Minister for Climate Change
and Sustainability**

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letters of 3 and 17 September 2009 and a copy of the wording of petitions No. 1270-09, 1292-09 and 1308-09 concerning the Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) for the proposed Cooloola Recreation Area.

The Queensland Government is aware that increasing pressure from visitors over recent years has led to concerns about public safety, environmental damage and public health at Cooloola.

The proposal to declare the Cooloola Recreation Area under Queensland's *Recreation Areas Management Act 2006* is the Government's preferred option to address these issues. The RIS puts forward a means to deal with these issues and delivers on the commitment to consult about the proposed management arrangements.

The RIS proposes a vehicle access permit as part of the management arrangements for the area. The RIS also recognises the need for continued free access to the area by identifying beach areas that would either be omitted from the recreation area or not subject to the vehicle permit scheme.

The concerns of the petitioners will be included in my deliberations when finalising the management arrangements for the area. If any further information is required, please do not hesitate to contact Michael Dart of my office on telephone 3336 8032.

Yours sincerely

Kate Jones MP
Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability

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