



Hon Desley Boyle MP
Member for Cairns

LAI	
UPON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE	
No.:	5309T1558
	22 DEC 2009
MP:	Hon Boyle
Clerk's Signature:	M. Laurie



**Queensland
Government**

09/43481
LA/09/3069

**Minister for Local Government and
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Partnerships**

22 DEC 2009

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 8 December 2009 regarding petition No. 1329-09 on the subject of car parking proposals by Redland City Council for the Weinam Creek ferry terminal, as stated in the *Redland Bay Centre and Foreshore Master Plan* (Master Plan) adopted by Council on 26 August 2009.

While I acknowledge the petitioners' concerns, under the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act), Local Governments in Queensland are charged with taking independent action on a wide range of matters necessary for ensuring the good rule and government of their areas. There are limited powers available to the State Government or to me as the Minister for Local Government, to direct Councils or to intervene in respect of the specific matters raised.

In relation to the petitioners' concerns with the Master Plan, I have been advised Council has undertaken extensive and on-going consultation since late 2008 with residents of the Southern Moreton Bay Islands, comprising Russell, Macleay, Lamb and Karragarra Islands.

This Master Plan, I understand, outlines Council's improvements to infrastructure on public land and open space uses. It includes improvements to car park capacity and access at ferry terminals with low pricing, and improved safety, security and traffic flow. Council states its overarching aim is to deliver an outcome that balances the diverse needs and expectations across the community.

Further, due to significant community feedback, Council in February 2009, unanimously endorsed a strategic framework involving new approaches to infrastructure including communication, community engagement and planning for the Southern Moreton Bay Islands.

This framework allows the Island communities to contribute formally to how the future is planned.

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I understand one of the key elements of the framework has been the creation of a Southern Moreton Bay Islands Advisory Committee of Council, under section 452 of the Act, to provide an important interface between Council and the Southern Moreton Bay Islands communities.

I have been informed Council appointed 10 members to the Advisory Committee at its meeting on 27 May 2009. Council states these committee members are expected to think globally, provide constructive criticism and advice, use their community contacts to advance ideas and to provide feedback into the community.

I have been advised Council has met every two months with the Advisory Committee since its inception, with the most recent public meeting held on 11 November 2009. Council's website details the outcomes of these meetings and dates of meetings scheduled for the Advisory Committee up until May 2011.

In relation to Council's proposed user-pays parking bays system at Weinam Creek ferry terminal, I have been informed that at Council's ordinary meeting of 28 October 2009, Council acknowledged the concerns of a number of petitioners regarding adequate parking bays for all users of the ferry terminal facility, and acknowledged the seriousness of the issues raised. Further, Council in response has called for these concerns to be incorporated into a new comprehensive social and economic study.

I understand this social and economic study will be undertaken by Council in conjunction with the *Southern Moreton Bay Islands Integrated Local Transport Plan* project.

Council has also advised that once all works on the new proposed car park are complete, which is anticipated for June 2011, there will be a total of 1164 secured parking bays with an overall increase of 70 parking bays and no free parking bays.

Council, I understand, has recently given Southern Moreton Bay Island residents an undertaking that there would be no charging for the proposed new 1164 secured parking bays at the Weinam Creek car park until alternatives, including improved public transport and the park and ride facilities, are on line. Further, I am informed any proposed parking fee structure will be re-examined as part of Council's new social and economic study.

Should you require any further information in relation to this matter, please contact Ms Meg Frisby, Principal Advisor of my office on telephone number 3227 8819.

Yours sincerely



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Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
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