



**Hon Andrew Fraser MP**  
Member for Mount Coot-tha

MN122978

06 JUN 2011

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



**Queensland  
Government**

**Treasurer of Queensland  
Minister for State Development  
and Trade**

*Dear Neil,*

Thank you for your letter of 13 May 2011 regarding petitions received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly No. 1626-11 and 1677-11 about the proposed Gold Coast Quarry project.

I acknowledge the concerns that the many signatories to these petitions have with regard to the proposed quarry and the request for Government to now refuse the project.

I can confirm that on 19 November 2010, the Coordinator-General declared the project a significant project for which an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required. The declaration initiates the statutory assessment process of Part 4 of the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971*.

A significant project declaration does not indicate any particular commitment to, approval of, nor support for the project proposal by either the Coordinator-General or the Queensland Government. Rather, it is recognition of the significant complexity of a project, the substantial benefits it may bring and the need to carefully assess its impacts and how they could be mitigated if the project is recommended to proceed.

In addition, the declaration itself does not exempt the project from the need to obtain all necessary development approvals under relevant Queensland legislation and/or to otherwise comply with relevant planning and environmental laws and instruments.

The assessment of a significant project involves a rigorous, whole-of-government evaluation of the social, environmental and economic effects of the project. The project's impacts are investigated, along with suggested mitigation measures for avoiding or reducing the impacts. The Coordinator-General coordinates the review of the project across government.

Level 9 Executive Building  
100 George Street Brisbane  
GPO Box 611 Brisbane  
Queensland 4001 Australia  
**Telephone +61 7 3224 6900**  
**Facsimile +61 7 3229 0642**  
**Email treasurer@ministerial.qld.gov.au**  
ABN 65 959 415 158

At the end of the assessment process, the Coordinator-General produces an evaluation report which, if it is decided the project should proceed, may apply conditions to further manage any project impacts. Conversely, if the proposal is deemed unacceptable or cannot adequately manage its impacts, approval for the project to commence may be refused at that time. An example of a project which was refused is the Gold Coast Naturelink Cableway project.

Once the Coordinator-General's Report is finalised, it is provided to assessment managers, for example, the local Council, for consideration in making decisions on any development approvals required by the project. In addition, as is the case with the Gold Coast Quarry project, the report would also be provided to the Commonwealth Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities for a decision about the project.

The project is currently in a key early stage of its assessment process, being development of the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the EIS for the project. The ToR states what the project's EIS must address.

The draft ToR for the Gold Coast Quarry were advertised by the Coordinator-General for public comment on Saturday, 19 February 2011 and again on Saturday, 19 March 2011. Submissions were invited over a six week period until Friday, 1 April 2011. Further information about the draft ToR and the project can be viewed online at: <http://www.dlgp.qld.gov.au/goldcoastquarry>.

The ToR will be finalised by the Coordinator-General, once submissions on the document made by the public, stakeholders and government agencies are taken into account. The final ToR will require matters including (but not limited to) air, dust, noise, amenity, flora, fauna, traffic, social and economic impacts including property values to be investigated.

When finalised, the ToR are provided to the proponent as the basis for development of the EIS. The proponent will then prepare an EIS and submit it to the Coordinator-General for consideration. If the Coordinator-General finds the EIS has substantially addressed the ToR, the EIS will be advertised for public consideration, with comment on the document sought at that time.

Public input about a proposed project during its EIS phase is an important element of its subsequent assessment. Based on advice from Boral, it is estimated that the EIS will be available for public comment in mid-2012. I encourage anyone with an interest in the quarry proposal to provide a submission on the EIS when it is released.

The Coordinator-General will finalise his assessment after considering matters such as the EIS and submissions received on the document.

I confirm that the petitions have been brought to the attention of the Coordinator-General for his information.

I would like to thank the people who signed the petition for taking the time to let the Government know their thoughts on this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Fraser'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

ANDREW FRASER