



Hon Vicky Darling MP
Member for Sandgate

Ref: CTS 21973

20 DEC 2011



**Queensland
Government**

Minister for Environment

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Neil

I refer to your letter of 9 December 2011 enclosing a copy of Petition No. 1698-11 lodged in the Queensland Legislative Assembly.

The Petition draws to the attention of the House that some reports indicate that approximately 1,400 whales are hunted and killed each year and at least seven species of giant whales are endangered and the global whale population continues to decline. The Petitioners therefore request that the House join the Federal Government in advocating for a total ban on whaling and for strong international action to be taken against countries who continue to support national whaling programs.

The Queensland Government is committed to protecting and recovering whale and dolphin populations. Marine mammals are fully protected in Queensland waters under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*. Furthermore, the Queensland Government is currently reviewing legislation to afford greater protection for these magnificent creatures.

The Queensland Government is strongly opposed to whaling and fully supports and will continue to work closely with the Commonwealth Government to bring to an end all forms of the barbaric practice that is commercial whaling.

This commitment is further demonstrated through the adoption of the national agreement on cetacean conservation, which outlines six priority areas for action including the establishment of a national network of whale and dolphin sanctuaries.

Should you have any further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact Dr Ashley Bunce, Director Wildlife of the department on telephone 3330 5274.

Yours sincerely

Vicky Darling MP
Minister for Environment

Level 13
400 George Street Brisbane Qld 4000
GPO Box 2454 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3239 0844
Facsimile +61 7 3227 6309
Email environment@ministerial.qld.gov.au
Website www.derm.qld.gov.au