



Office of the Minister for Energy and Water Supply

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MC10907

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15 June 2012

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to your letter of 23 May 2012 enclosing a copy of Petition No. 1860-12 lodged in the Queensland Legislative Assembly.

The Petition draws to the attention of the House the recent decision by SunWater to impose closing times on the recreational use of the Fairbairn Dam and picnic area and requests the House to rescind the decision by SunWater to restrict access and use of the Fairbairn Dam and its' facilities, so that everyone has the opportunity to enjoy a wonderful public asset at their leisure.

SunWater has advised that it supports the recreational value Fairbairn Dam provides to the Emerald township and the broader regional community, and it will continue to support the safe use of Fairbairn Dam as a day use facility; however, the recreational areas' amenities are not intended for after hours use.

SunWater has expressed real concerns for the safety of the general public who use the recreational facilities at the dam because of the bad behaviour of a small minority.

This minority is routinely placing other users and themselves at risk through very dangerous breaches of the traffic and marine safety acts, excessive drinking in a public place and general conduct that is extreme and causing broader public nuisance.

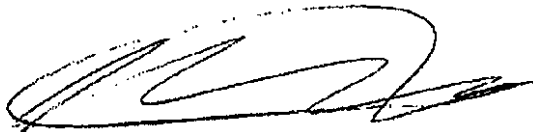
These acts are generally happening after hours and the Police are routinely called to the site to deal with these issues. This has resulted in SunWater having to employ a security firm to assist in patrolling the facility after hours to ensure that the recreational areas at the dam remain safe for everyone's enjoyment and to reduce unsocial behaviour and property damage.

SunWater is currently undertaking a review of the site amenities, water activity safety areas and the general safety of the Fairbairn Dam Recreational Area. SunWater has engaged a management consultant to provide advice on how to best manage public safety at the facility.

The consultants have been meeting with key stakeholders including Police and Council and will provide recommendations by mid-2012.

Should you have any further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Belinda O'Meara, Principal Project Officer, Water Supply Policy and Management within the Department of Energy and Water Supply on telephone 3330 5409.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark McArdle', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark McArdle MP
Minister for Energy and Water Supply