



Hon Jeff Seeney MP

Deputy Premier

Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning

Our ref: MC12/4427
NL 041212

Your ref: 10.4 Petitions

21 DEC 2012

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


Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 29 November 2012 about petition 1929-12 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 28 November 2012.

The petition suggests that the development of the Caloundra South will leave rate payers of the Sunshine Coast Regional Council with a \$500 million burden, and that the development would pose environmental impacts on the Pumicestone Passage and Ramsar wetlands. The petition also seeks planning authority over the Caloundra South development to be returned to the council, and for all necessary infrastructure to be in place before homes are constructed.

I am advised there is no evidence to suggest that the development of Caloundra South will impose a \$500 million burden on ratepayers. The provision and cost of infrastructure for Caloundra South are currently being jointly considered by the state government, council and utility providers. I am confident that this matter can be resolved to the satisfaction of all parties.

In relation to environmental concerns, the master plan approved in June 2012 incorporates extensive environmental protection and conservation strategies and establishes environmental performance requirements for development on the site. This includes habitat protection and enhancement, revegetation and rehabilitation, buffers for water quality, fauna movement corridors, weed management, pest and responsible pet ownership, fire management and specific requirements for the provision of frog habitat.

The Commonwealth Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, is also in the process of assessing the proposed development outcomes against Matters of National Environmental Significance, including any potential impacts on Ramsar-listed wetlands and endangered species.

Level 12 Executive Building
100 George St Brisbane
PO Box 15009 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3224 4600
Facsimile +61 7 3210 2185
Email deputypremier@ministerial.qld.gov.au

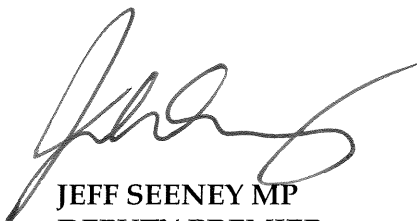
The petition also requests that planning authority for Caloundra South be handed back to council. The Economic Development Bill 2012, which was passed by Queensland Parliament on 29 November 2012, repealed the *Urban Land Development Act 2007* and establishes a new function under the name of the Minister of Economic Development Queensland (MEDQ). The Bill will be enacted in early 2013 when the necessary operational arrangements for MEDQ have been put in place. The legislation enables local government involvement in the work of MEDQ and provides for the MEDQ's functions or powers to be delegated to local government.

Work has commenced to return control of some existing Urban Development Areas to local governments by delegating development assessment and administration powers to particular councils. Delegations will be progressively made to the larger South East Queensland local governments where councils can demonstrate that they will deliver the same standard of service and meet the timeframes for the processing of development applications established by the Urban Land Development Authority. This will include Caloundra South in due course, subject to the preparedness of council to take on this responsibility.

Finally, the Caloundra South development scheme will ensure infrastructure and services needed to support urban uses will be provided in a timely, orderly, integrated and coordinated manner. Provision of necessary infrastructure and services to support development are imposed as conditions of a development approval, and are required to be constructed at the time the development is being undertaken and delivered to meet the demand generated by development. Given the development of the Caloundra South site will be undertaken over a number of years, provision of infrastructure will be staged to meet demand, and to maximise performance and return on investment.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



JEFF SEENEY MP
DEPUTY PREMIER
Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning