



Mr N Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Legislative Assembly of Queensland
Parliament House
Alice and George Streets
BRISBANE Q 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 17 June 2003 forwarding a copy of a petition tabled in the Parliament on 6 June 2003 regarding the sale of the Halse Lodge Guest House in Noosa.

I met with the Member for Noosa, Cate Molloy, and current lessee in March of this year about the proposed sale of Halse Lodge. In April I issued a press release reassuring Noosa residents that the heritage-listed Halse Lodge is protected from unsuitable development or demolition. Halse Lodge and its surrounds, were permanently entered on the Queensland Heritage Register in 1997.

Fines of more than \$1 million could be imposed if development of the site took place without Queensland Heritage Council approval. An administrative advice is attached to a property's title when it is listed on the Heritage Register, so new owners are notified of the site's cultural heritage significance. The Queensland Heritage Act 1992 requires owners to seek Heritage Council approval for any development, such as subdivision, change of use or proposed demolition.

Halse Lodge is significant for its continuous use as a guest house since the 1920's and for its special associations with the community. If an application for a change of use was submitted, the Queensland Heritage Council would consider public use of Halse Lodge in regard to the cultural significance of the place in assessing the application. Other legal avenues such as stop orders are also available if needed to protect Halse Lodge.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

DEAN WELLS

Minister for Environment

