

MIN50047.03

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliamentary Service
CENTRAL DOCUMENT EXCHANGE M29

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to the petitions from Ms Sharyn Masters, 24 Musgrave Avenue, Chirn Park (the principal petitioner) regarding the *Gold Coast Harbour Vision 2020 Project – Report No. 1*, prepared by the Gold Coast City Council.

Details of these identical petitions are as follows:

Petition No.	Date Tabled in the Legislative Assembly
2199	6 March 2002
2297	9 April 2002
2465	17 April 2002
2753	18 June 2002
3195	20 August 2002
3697	22 October 2002
4138	26 November 2002
4641	11 March 2003
4987	29 April 2003
5212	15 May 2003
5901	9 September 2003
5651	19 August 2003

Please find enclosed a copy of my reply to Ms Masters dated 17 April 2002 in response to this matter.

My response to Ms Masters has not changed and I would appreciate it if you would arrange for my letter of 17 April 2002 to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly as my response to each of the above-mentioned identical petitions.

Yours sincerely

Nita Cunningham MP
Minister for Local Government and Planning

MIN 42324.02 – TPA22744

17 April 2002

Ms S Masters
24 Musgrave Avenue
CHIRN PARK QLD 4215

Dear Ms Masters

I refer to your petition to the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland regarding the *Gold Coast Harbour Vision 2020 Project – Report No. 1* (Harbour Vision Report) prepared by the Gold Coast City Council, which outlines your opposition to any commercial development and any further reclamation in the Broadwater including Wavebreak Island and the western foreshore. The petition has been referred to me for consideration and reply.

Officers of my Department have contacted the Gold Coast City Council in relation to this matter. Council officers have advised the Harbour Vision Report was prepared as a discussion paper for preliminary consultation purposes and does not reflect a policy position of Council. I am advised an extensive preliminary community consultation program in relation to the preparation of the Gold Coast Harbour Study was undertaken by Council between December 1998 and February 1999. It is understood a number of consistent themes emerged from this consultation. The consultation also identified a lack of baseline environmental data and accordingly Council undertook an environmental baseline study. I am advised as a result of the complex nature of issues identified in relation to the Harbour, the Council subsequently widened the scope of its Harbour Study resulting in the preparation of the Harbour Vision Report.

I understand Council has not adopted the recommendations of the Harbour Vision Study, however, intends to establish a committee for the Gold Coast Harbour Vision project, with membership from a broad range of community and industry stakeholders, to progress the broad range of issues and options identified in the Report. The Harbour Vision project is intended to address all aspects of planning and management for the Gold Coast Harbour. Council anticipates further community consultation will be undertaken during the development and finalisation of a vision for the Harbour.

Council officers have advised the development of a vision for the Harbour is likely to result in the initiation of an amendment to Council's planning scheme in accordance with the requirements of the *Integrated Planning Act 1997* (IPA). An amendment to Council's planning scheme must be processed in accordance with Schedule 1 of the IPA, which initially involves the preparation and public notification of a Statement of Proposals (the preliminary consultation phase). After receiving and considering community feedback on a Statement of Proposals, Council may proceed with preparation of a planning scheme amendment. A proposed planning scheme amendment must be forwarded to the State Government for consideration of State interests and my authorisation to commence public notification. Subsequent to approval, the amendment must be publicly notified in accordance with the statutory requirements of the IPA, which provides a further opportunity for community input. Prior to adoption of an amendment, Council must again forward it to the Government for final consideration of State interests and approval to proceed to adoption.

In addition to the preliminary consultation currently being initiated by Council, as outlined above there will be a number of formal opportunities for the community to be involved in planning the future of the Gold Coast Harbour. It is also highlighted a number of State and Commonwealth approvals will be required before any future development proceeds in the Harbour.

Whilst I appreciate the concerns you have raised, the Government does not have any decision making powers in relation to this matter at this preliminary stage. I encourage you to contact the Council directly to discuss your concerns in relation to this matter and determine if there are opportunities to be involved in the planning process.

I trust this information is of assistance. If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours sincerely

Nita Cunningham MP
Minister for Local Government and Planning