

MI115243

Mr N Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Cnr Alice and George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 22 September 2003 and petition from residents of Russell Island regarding mosquitoes.

I share the concerns of the residents of Russell Island and the Redland Shire Council in managing mosquito problems as mosquito borne diseases are an issue across the entire State. Queensland has a tropical and sub tropical climate favourable to the development of large numbers of mosquitoes capable of transmitting diseases such as Ross River virus, Barmah Forest virus, dengue fever, Japanese encephalitis and Australian encephalitis. All of these diseases have occurred in Queensland in recent years with varying frequency.

However, given that Queensland has 125 local governments, it is not feasible to fund individual local government mosquito control programs. My Department's current mosquito control activities (in excess of \$700, 000 annually) are considered more equitable and a better use of available funds than funding individual mosquito control programs that would benefit fewer people. These activities include funding research into mosquito and mosquito-borne disease control, training local government staff and the provision of technical assistance and health promotion resources to local governments.

I regret that I am unable to assist Redland Shire Council with funds to improve their mosquito management program.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

SIGNED

Wendy Edmond MP
**Minister for Health and
Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy**