



Hon Dr Steven Miles MP
Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and
Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef

Our Ref: 04099/16

14 MAR 2016

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Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 25 February 2016 enclosing a copy of E-Petition No. 2480-15 tabled in the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 16 February 2016.

The Palaszczuk Government is aware of the strong community support for a barge service between the Redcliffe Peninsula and Moreton Island. In 2014 an expressions of interest (EOI) process for a commercial opportunity to provide a barge service to Moreton Island was undertaken, with MDT Maritime Pty Ltd (MDT) being the successful applicant.

Since the EOI process, discussions have been ongoing with MDT and the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR). On the Redcliffe Peninsula, MDT identified a preferred barge landing at Scarborough Harbour. No current infrastructure is ready and available for their use at that location and the upfront capital expenditure required to enable a barge service to commence from Scarborough Harbour is significant — approximately \$4 million has been estimated, excluding costs associated with road realignment, parking requirements and other land-based infrastructure.

Officers from the Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing (NPSR), Moreton Bay Regional Council (MBRC), TMR and MDT will continue to work to identify a suitable alternative landing site.

I would be pleased if you would arrange for the tabling of this letter in response to the Petition in accordance with Standing Order 31 by Monday, 14 March 2016.

I hope this information has been of assistance to you. Should you have any further enquiries, please contact Mr Philip Halton, Chief of Staff in my office on telephone (07) 3719 7330.

Yours sincerely

DR STEVEN MILES MP
Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and
Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef