



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

Ref CTS 26344/16

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**11 NOV 2016**

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

Dear Mr  Laurie

I refer to your letter of 13 October 2016 enclosing a copy of Petition No. 2649-16 lodged in the Queensland Legislative Assembly. Please accept this letter as my response to this petition and I request that, under Standing Order 125 you table the response by Friday, 11 November 2016.

As Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef, I share the petitioners' commitment to conserving Queensland's cultural heritage. The Ravenswood School and Residence is a significant heritage place, as is the Ravenswood Mining Landscape and Chinese Settlement Area. The former has been on the Queensland Heritage Register (the Register) as a State heritage place since the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992* (Heritage Act) came into force, while the latter was entered in the Register by the Queensland Heritage Council on 14 October 2016.

In making its 14 October 2016 decision about the Ravenswood Mining Landscape and Chinese Settlement Area, the Queensland Heritage Council welcomed the intention of Carpentaria Gold Pty Ltd to enter negotiations with the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) about a Heritage Agreement under part 7 of the Heritage Act for proposed mining activities. In principle, a Heritage Agreement could facilitate expanded Buck Reef West mining operations (subject to other relevant approvals) while also ensuring: options to relocate any features such as chimney stacks are explored; any features that have to be destroyed and cannot be relocated are properly recorded and interpreted; archaeological investigations and discoveries are appropriately managed; and appropriate mitigation and conservation management measures occur.

I am advised by EHP that its heritage officers and Carpentaria Gold are commencing these negotiations. I am also advised by EHP that Carpentaria Gold, a subsidiary of Resolute Mining Ltd, has not yet provided any briefing or associated pre-lodgement material, for the Buck Reef West expansion project, which will also require an environmental authority (EA) amendment application under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (EP Act). As currently proposed, the project will likely impact both State heritage places: the school and residence and the mining landscape. Carpentaria Gold has indicated to EHP that it anticipates providing the EA amendment application by early 2018.

Under the EP Act, an EA amendment process may require public notification and depending on the scale and potential impacts, EHP may be required to decide whether the project also requires assessment by the environmental impact statement (EIS) process under the provisions of the EP Act. Both processes give concerned members of the community the opportunity to make a submission about the risk of environmental impacts, including heritage related matters.

I am very mindful of the need to balance the conservation of Queensland's heritage assets against other important interests. An application to expand mining operations at Ravenswood would need to address both potential environmental and heritage impacts and include appropriate management and mitigation measures.

Should you have any further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Fiona Gardiner, Director, Heritage of EHP on telephone 3330 5873.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Miles', written over a light blue horizontal line.

**DR STEVEN MILES MP**

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Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef**