



The Hon Dr Anthony Lynham MP  
Minister for State Development and  
Minister for Natural Resources and Mines

---

Our ref: MO/17/4476  
MC17/3999

1 William Street  
Brisbane QLD 4000  
PO Box 15216 City East  
Queensland 4002 Australia  
**Telephone +61 7 3719 7360**  
**Email** [sdnrm@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:sdnrm@ministerial.qld.gov.au)  
[www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au](http://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au)  
[www.dnrm.qld.gov.au](http://www.dnrm.qld.gov.au)

15 SEP 2017

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Queensland Parliamentary Service  
Parliament House  
Corner Alice and George Streets  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Email: [ClerksOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:ClerksOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 24 August 2017 about Petition 2814-17 lodged with the Legislative Assembly on 24 August 2017 regarding the government's identification of the potential Cairns South State Development Area (SDA) and the public consultation undertaken on the potential Cairns South SDA.

SDAs are clearly defined areas of land established by the Coordinator-General to promote economic development in Queensland. SDAs are strategically located to offer economic development opportunities for businesses and industry of regional, state and national significance.

Over the past decade, several investigations by the state government into industrial land availability have identified there is a shortfall in suitable existing land for regionally significant industrial development in the Cairns region. These investigations have focused on economic development opportunities, physical and environment constraints, environmental and community impacts and infrastructure requirements. As a result, an area of land to the south of Cairns has been identified as potentially suitable for declaration as an SDA to ensure Cairns is well placed to accommodate economy boosting activities into the medium-long term. The potential Cairns South SDA was announced on 11 July 2017.

The potential Cairns South SDA covers approximately 840 hectares of land, of which approximately 350 hectares has been identified as potentially developable land. Land within the potential SDA could facilitate transport and intermodal related development, and regionally significant industrial development. The potential SDA also contains significant buffer and environmental areas that would enable the continuation of sugar cane cultivation and other existing horticultural pursuits, as well as management of environmental areas.

I acknowledge the potential Cairns South SDA contains strategic cropping land and areas mapped as Agricultural Land Classification Class A and B land. Analysis undertaken by the government indicates the potential SDA would impact around only 2.5 per cent of the sugar cane supplied to the Mulgrave Mill over its predicted development life up to 2046. Furthermore, the potential SDA offers opportunities to complement and respond to MSF Sugar's future business plans for revenue diversification for its Mulgrave Mill.

In terms of the public consultation undertaken on the potential Cairns South SDA, I advise that notification of the potential SDA was published on the Department of State Development's website on 11 July 2017, and in the Courier Mail and Cairns Post on 15 July 2017. Letters and an information pack were distributed from 11 July 2017 to all landholders within the potential SDA as well as numerous stakeholders including, but not limited to, the Cairns Regional Council, Advance Cairns, MSF Sugar, Pregno Family Investments Pty Ltd, Canegrowers Australia and Sugar Research Australia.

Public consultation and the submission period ended on 25 August 2017. The Coordinator-General is collating and reviewing submissions received and is happy to continue to discuss the potential SDA with interested parties.

If you have any questions about my advice to you, Mr Paul Woodland, Chief of Staff, will be pleased to assist you and can be contacted on (07) 3719 7360.

Yours sincerely



**Dr Anthony Lynham MP**  
Minister for State Development and  
Minister for Natural Resources and Mines