



Minister for Innovation and
Tourism Industry Development and
Minister for the Commonwealth Games

Our Ref: CTS 4639/19
Your Ref: A417380

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14 March 2019

Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Cnr of George and Alice Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I write in response to your letter regarding petition number 3040-18 tabled in Parliament on 12 February 2019, in relation to an Expression of Interest for construction of ecotourism facilities on Hinchinbrook Island, Whitsunday Island and in the Great Sandy National Park.

I appreciate and share the petitioners' interest in the conservation of Queensland's national parks. The Queensland Government recognises both the importance of biodiversity and the community's desire to protect the natural environment for generations to come. That's why the Palaszczuk Government has committed to grow national park areas in Queensland to 17 per cent of the state.

In relation to this petition, the Queensland Government is not privatising national parks. In 2010, the law was changed to allow low impact ecotourism in national parks.

Ecotourism projects in national parks must comply with the Implementation Framework for Ecotourism Facilities in National Parks and Best Practice Ecotourism Development Guidelines.

Any arrangement which may eventuate with ecotourism facility operators will be subject to a lease.

The Queensland Government will also continue to undertake community consultation throughout the market process. The views expressed in each local community will be carefully considered in line with the Ecotourism Framework.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners. In accordance with Standing Order 31, I request that this letter be tabled today.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kate Jones".

HON KATE JONES MP
Minister for Innovation and
Tourism Industry Development and
Minister for the Commonwealth Games