



Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef,
Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts

Our Ref: CTS 08275/19
Your Ref: A431177

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26 APR 2019

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 2 April 2019 regarding Parliamentary Petition Nos. 3097-19 and 3106-19 concerning the Wilson Beach swimming enclosure, within the Whitsunday Regional Council (the Council).

I acknowledge these petitions are seeking to stop the Council from demolishing the enclosure and to either repair the current facility or replace it with the assistance of the Queensland Government.

In December 2018, at the Council's request the Department of Environment and Science (the department) considered a risk assessment report (commissioned by Council), on options for the Wilson Beach swimming enclosure and the risks posed by estuarine crocodiles for each option.

The department found the risk assessment report (prepared by a consultant who has considerable expertise in crocodile ecology and management), to be comprehensive and that it had considered all relevant issues associated with the local crocodile population, public safety and future options for the Wilson Beach swimming enclosure.

The decision on whether to remove, repair or replace the enclosure is a matter for Council informed by the report and the Council's financial position.

It is noted that, as the structure is located within the Great Barrier Reef Coast Marine Park, any future works on the structure would require approval from the department under the *Marine Parks Act 2004*.

I would be pleased if you would arrange for the tabling of this letter in response to the petitions in accordance with Standing Order 31.

I trust this information has been of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

Leeanne Enoch MP
**Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef,
Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts**