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Your Ref: 323-04

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 17 June 2004 forwarding a copy of a petition received by the House on 16 June 2004 requesting that the public be allowed to continue to use Nine Mile Beach, near Byfield, for camping and recreational activities all year.

The current access to this beach is through Byfield National Park and an area of Unallocated State Land (USL). There are no gazetted roads to this beach.

It is proposed to add the area of USL to the adjacent Byfield National Park in the next few months. Access to Nine Mile Beach for camping and recreational use will still be permitted after the area of USL is added to the National Park.

The access to Nine Mile Beach has recently been upgraded. Timber palleting has been done at the northern beach access point. This palleting prevents erosion of the sand dune and makes it safer and easier for vehicles to access the beach. The track crossing at Sandy Creek has also been upgraded. A low bridge has been installed which will prevent vehicle damage to the creek bed and banks caused by the wash from vehicles.

The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service is developing proposals for improved management of beach camping along Nine Mile Beach. The purpose of this work is to ensure that camping and 4WD access through sand dunes is managed to minimise damage to sensitive areas while, at the same time, providing high quality opportunities for camping.

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It is expected that there will be some changes to where people can camp on Nine Mile Beach. This is required to protect areas such as Whalebone Creek that have been seriously degraded due to uncontrolled camping. The areas where people are able to camp on Nine Mile Beach will be clearly indicated.

Owners of vehicles using Nine Mile Beach will still need to ensure their use of the vehicle on the beach is in compliance with local shire by laws.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

JOHN MICKEL
Minister for Environment