



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

Our Ref: CTS 17627/20
Your Ref: A590013

1 William Street Brisbane Qld 4000
GPO Box 5078 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7140
Email environment@ministerial.qld.gov.au

9 September 2020

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 13 August 2020 regarding Parliamentary Petition Nos. 3359-20 and 3390-20 requesting the State Government build and administer a tyre inflation facility at Rainbow Beach.

Revenue collected under the *Recreation Areas Management Act 2006* must be administered for the purposes of the Act, which requires revenue to be expended in managing the recreation areas. Given the popularity of these areas the revenue collected from Vehicle Access Permits are prioritised towards the care and maintenance of the environmental and cultural values that provide the greatest attraction to these unique natural areas.

Contrary to the claims made in the petition, the Department of Environment and Science's (the department) educational material advises drivers that they should maintain their tyre pressure within the manufacturers' tyre pressure specifications and highlights the risks associated with reducing tyre pressure beyond manufacturer's recommendations. A copy of this material is available on the department's website at <https://parks.des.qld.gov.au/before-you-visit/visit-with-care/four-wheel-drive-with-care/driving-on-sand>.

The department has also produced a series of short safety video clips and a printable *Driving on Sand: Safety Guide*, also available on the department's website and freely accessible at its information centres. This material promotes four-wheel drivers to be self-sufficient by carrying a working tyre gauge and a portable air compressor should they choose to reduce their tyre pressure. Such measures acknowledge the ever-changing beach and environmental conditions, the risks associated with driving on underinflated tyres and the limited access to recovery services throughout the region. I would encourage all visitors planning to four-wheel drive in Queensland's recreation areas prepare appropriately for their visit by reading and following this important safety guide.

The Queensland Government recognises that numerous businesses throughout the Cooloola region, namely service stations, provide a range of vehicle related services including tyre inflation facilities for their customers. The Department of Environment and Science has no plans to provide an alternate, taxpayer funded facility which competes with, or negatively impacts the commercial viability of, these local businesses.

I trust that 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