



Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef
Minister for Science and Youth Affairs

Our Ref: CTS 19050/21
Your Ref: A775466

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12 November 2021

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 15 October 2021 regarding Parliamentary Petition No. 3582-21 concerning the SeaLink Travel Group's proposal for dredging in Redland Bay.

I am advised that Sealink Travel Group's development proposal is located within the Weinam Creek Priority Development Area. Economic Development Queensland, within the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, manages development in some Priority Development Areas and is currently assessing the development application, the subject of this petition (DEV 2021/1187). The development application can be viewed online at: <https://www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/economic-development-qld/buying-and-developing-land/development-applications-and-assessment/current-applications-and-approvals>.

The Department of Environment and Science (the department) has provided advice to Economic Development Queensland relating to the development application and has advised that an environmental authority under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* will also be required for dredging involving 1,000 tonnes or more a year. The department is yet to receive an application for an environmental authority for dredging associated with the proposed development. In considering applications for dredging activities, the department requires applicants to demonstrate that impacts to environmental values have been avoided, minimised and mitigated to the greatest extent practicable. Typically, this would involve an options analysis that considers a range of proposed works to achieve the stated outcomes of the project and it would be generally expected that, where possible, the extent of capital dredging is kept to a minimum.

All works proposed within the Moreton Bay Marine Park require a marine park permit and assessment in accordance with the *Marine Parks Act 2004* and subordinate legislation to ensure environmental and cultural values are conserved. The department is currently assessing a marine park works application that matches the description provided. However, capital dredging to establish new navigational channels is not within the scope of that marine park permit application.

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

Yours sincerely

Meaghan Scanlon MP
Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef
Minister for Science and Youth Affairs