



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

Our Ref: CTS 14349/22
Your Ref: A933527

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14 September 2022

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 29 August 2022 enclosing a copy of Parliamentary Petition No. 3718-22 concerning asbestos at Toolakea Beach and Halifax Bay mudflats.

The *Environmental Protection Act 1994* has provisions for the management of the movement of contaminants into waters. The responsibility for the administration and enforcement of those provisions has been devolved to local government under the Environmental Protection Regulation 2019. In this case, the relevant local government is the Townsville City Council.

I am further advised that public health risk from asbestos that is not at a workplace is a matter for Townsville City Council under the *Public Health Act 2005*.

I encourage the petitioners to contact Townsville City Council on telephone 13 48 10 or through its website at <https://www.townsville.qld.gov.au/about-council/contact-council>.

Should the petitioners be dissatisfied with Townsville City Council's response to their concerns, they may refer the matter to the Queensland Ombudsman for review. One of the functions of the Queensland Ombudsman is to investigate and review the administrative actions of local government. The Queensland Ombudsman can be contacted by telephone (07) 3005 7000 or 1800 068 908 or via its website at www.ombudsman.qld.gov.au/about-us/contact-us.

Where health is potentially affected by activities from a workplace, this is a matter for Workplace Health and Safety Queensland who can be contacted on telephone 1300 362 128 or through its website at www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/contact.

In future if the petitioners have any other concerns about pollution incidents or compliance with environmental regulations, I encourage them to contact the Department of Environment and Science's Pollution Hotline on 1300 130 372 or by email at pollutionhotline@des.qld.gov.au.

I trust that this information is 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