



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

Our Ref: CTS 19262/22
Your Ref: A979141

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

8 December 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 11 November 2022 enclosing a copy of Parliamentary Petition No. 3822-22 concerning the review of the zoning plan for the Great Sandy Marine Park and the impacts of the proposed marine park management changes on the commercial seafood industry and associated seafood suppliers and consumers.

This zoning plan review is the first review of the management of the Great Sandy Marine Park since it was declared in 2006. A key purpose of the review is to ensure that the Marine Park's management is effectively conserving the Park's very significant natural and cultural values, particularly in light of the increasing threats from climate change and to ensure the management is providing an appropriate balance between conservation and use.

The development of the draft revised zoning plan has been informed by community feedback on the 2019 discussion paper, scientific research and socio-economic information, best practice marine park management principles, recommendations from an independent scientific reference group and advice from First Nations peoples.

The public consultation on the draft zoning plan and supporting Regulatory Impact Statement, which closed on 23 October 2022, has provided an opportunity for the community and stakeholders to consider and provide comment on the Government's proposed changes to the zoning plan. The large number of submissions and survey responses received in response to this consultation has demonstrated the community's strong interest in the Marine Park and in shaping its future management.

In addition to the abovementioned feedback, during the consultation period, staff from the Department of Environment and Science met with 35 commercial fishers and two seafood processors from the Wide Bay Region, as well as local residents, and heard directly their perspective on the proposed zoning changes.

Over the coming months the consultation input will be analysed and reported for Government consideration and direction on the further progression of the zoning plan review process. The concerns raised in this Parliamentary Petition will be considered as part of the analysis process.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MS', with a horizontal line extending to the right from the bottom of the signature.

Meaghan Scanlon MP

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