



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

Your reference: A1154891  
Our reference: CTS 17399/23

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11 OCT 2023

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 September 2023 enclosing a copy of Parliamentary Petition No. 3909-23 concerning expansion of the Atherton Forest Mountain Bike Park.

The Palaszczuk Government recognises the economic opportunities and community benefit for the local community, of expanding the existing Atherton Forest Mountain Bike Park facility and assets to become a domestic and international mountain biking destination.

The Department of Environment and Science (the department) has given conditional in-principle support to the mountain bike park facility stage 2 concept plan, and is collaborating with all stakeholders including Wadjanbarra Tableland Yidinji Aboriginal Corporation, Tablelands Regional Council and Tableland Cycle Sports.

Maintenance of the existing trail network to industry standards, in partnership with Tableland Cycle Sports, is a departmental commitment. To this end, in addition to staff undertaking routine maintenance activities on the trail network, funding is regularly allocated to engage contractors for the purpose of maintaining the trails.

The department, along with Wadjanbarra Tableland Yidinji Aboriginal Corporation, will manage the cultural heritage and environmental assessments of any proposed future works at the mountain bike park facility to ensure any planned development is culturally and environmentally responsible and sustainable.

The department has committed to working with all stakeholders involved in the proposed development of the stage 2 expansion of the mountain bike park facility and continuing to provide input into all aspects of planning and business case frameworks. Providing economic opportunities to the department's First Nations partners, such as the Wadjanbarra Tableland Yidinji Aboriginal Corporation, is critical in any future development at the mountain bike park facility.

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

Yours sincerely

**Leanne Linard MP**  
**Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef**  
**Minister for Science and Minister for Multicultural Affairs**