

MIN 58693.05  
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Mr N Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Queensland Parliamentary Service  
CENTRAL DOCUMENT EXCHANGE M29

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition No 428-05 tabled in the Legislative Assembly by Mr Jason O'Brien MP, Member for Cook on 22 February 2005.

The petition indicates the Government has infringed the rights of the people of Weipa by deeming the Weipa Town Office as 'not eligible' for funding under the Major Facilities Program (Majors) 2006. The petition requests the House use its authority to deem the Weipa Town Office as an eligible organisation for funding purposes under this Program.

On 28 October 2004, the Weipa Town Office wrote to me seeking my consideration of its eligibility under the Majors Program 2006.

Subsequently I advised the Weipa Town Office it is not an eligible organisation under the Majors Program 2006 as:-

1. it is not a local government;
2. it is not an incorporated not for profit organisation with sport and recreation objectives; and
3. it is not a separate legal entity from Comalco (a for-profit company).

The criteria for eligibility and assessment of all funding programs administered by Sport and Recreation Queensland (SRQ) are open and transparent and have been in place for some time.

It should be noted that the discretion provided under section 3.1, of the Majors Program 2006 Guidelines to recognise an organisation as eligible for funding under the program relates only to organisations with non-profit sport or recreation objectives. As the Weipa Town Office is not a not-for-profit organisation with sport and recreation objectives, the discretion to recognise it as an eligible organisation under the Majors Program 2006 does not apply.

The rights of the people of Weipa to access funding under the Majors Program 2006 are not 'infringed' as suggested in the petition, as any eligible organisation in Weipa could act as the applicant under the Program, with the Weipa Town Office contributing towards the project.

Indeed, SRQ officers have discussed with the Weipa Town Office other options for accessing funding under the Majors Program 2006, such as partnering with a not for profit sport and recreation organisation to submit its application.

I understand the Weipa Town Office has since arranged for another organisation in Weipa to take over responsibility for the funding application. All applications under the Majors Program 2006 are currently under consideration by SRQ.

I trust this addresses the petitioners' concerns. Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours sincerely

TERRY MACKENROTH