



Hon Henry Palaszczuk MP
Member for Inala



**Queensland
Government**

**Minister for Natural Resources,
Mines and Water**

Ref CTS 01025/06

16 MAR 2006

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Cnr Alice and George Streets
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear ~~Mr~~ ^{Neil} Laurie

I refer to your letter of 15 February 2006 enclosing a copy of Petition No. 493-05 lodged in the Queensland Legislative Assembly.

The petitioners 'request the House to not approve the inclusion of the drafted new quarry operation known as Key Resource Area 71 for Mt Cotton and does not approve any expansion of the existing Mt Cotton Quarry operation in the State Development Plan and consider permanently preserving for the heritage of Queensland the 200 hectare property 195-203 Gramzow Road (Mt Cotton)'.

This Petition raises three inter-related issues which, under Queensland Government legislation are dealt with by different agencies. These are, resource planning at the strategic level, the approval process for assessment of a quarry application, and the preservation of valuable natural features.

The strategic planning issue involves the proposed Key Resource Area (KRA 71) covering the Mount Cotton hardrock resource that is included in the draft State Planning Policy (SPP): Protection of Extractive Resources. The Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Water is responsible for developing this policy. State Planning Policies provide for inclusion of State interests in local planning schemes in accordance with the *Integrated Planning Act 1997*.

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The policy is designed to ensure the continued availability of State significant extractive resources by their inclusion as KRAs in the SPP. KRAs will be incorporated into planning schemes to achieve protection from incompatible developments. The Mount Cotton resource fulfils the criteria of State significance in terms of quality, quantity, and demand in the regional market area. KRA 71 has been subjected to examinations of economic, social and environmental values and has already been incorporated into the Redland Shire planning scheme.

A KRA includes the resource/processing area associated with extraction and processing of material, transport routes, and a separation area surrounding these areas to protect them from developments which may be incompatible with future extraction of the resource and the transport of products. By highlighting these locations and designating a suitable separation area around them, new sensitive development (for example residential) will be adequately separated from any future extractive industries sited on the resources.

Actual approval to develop a quarry is provided for by the Integrated Development Assessment System (IDAS), which is an entirely separate assessment process within the *Integrated Planning Act 1997*. Management of this assessment is primarily a matter for the Redland Shire Council to coordinate. This ensures that several State government agencies including the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will assess the application for potential environmental and social impacts. Furthermore, an environmental authority under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* would have to be sought from the EPA.

Any future application to expand the existing Mount Cotton Quarry of Barro Group Pty Ltd, which is already established in KRA 71, will be subject to review by that process. The application would have to be supported by information on potential environmental and social amenity impacts and management strategies. Queensland's environmental standards are set out in the Environmental Protection Policy (Noise), Environmental Protection Policy (Air), and Environmental Protection Policy (Water) as well as other requirements of the *Environmental Protection Regulation 1998* under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.

The application must be publicly displayed for community members to have the opportunity to review and make submissions agreeing with or objecting to the application. The decision of the shire council and the EPA is then subject to appeal in the Planning and Environment Court by any community member who has made a formal submission to the council.

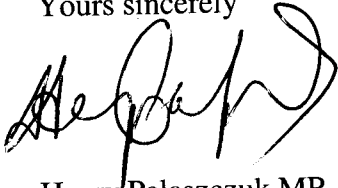
If any quarry development is approved, the responsibility for ensuring that the permit conditions are met lies with the local authority and agencies responsible for particular aspects of quarry management (for example the EPA and the Department of Main Roads).

Therefore the third issue raised by the petitioners, namely preservation of conservation and heritage values on the property at 195-203 Gramzow Road Mount Cotton, will be dealt with during the development application process by the Redland Shire Council and the EPA.

No application to develop a quarry has yet been made to the Redland Shire Council, however Barro Group Pty Ltd has provided information on their proposal on their website at www.mtcottonquarry.com.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Henry Palaszczuk', written in a cursive style.

Henry Palaszczuk MP
**Minister for Natural Resources,
Mines and Water**