

In reply please quote: 2005-04907
Your reference: 499-05

Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Cnr Alice and George Sts
Brisbane QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Petition received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly No. 499-05

Thank you for your letter dated 10 August 2005 about the above petition received by the House regarding the trees in front of the Cooktown Courthouse.

I can advise that removal of the trees will only be considered as a last resort after all other reasonable options are explored. I understand that the trees contribute substantially to the streetscape in Cooktown and have attracted considerable interest from within the community. However, it is also important that the cost of maintaining public facilities be considered, and a long term view be taken of this matter.

The Department of Justice and Attorney-General will undertake consultation with the local community to examine options relating to the retention or removal of one or both trees and landscaping of the site.

Further consideration will be given to this matter on completion of the investigation and public consultation process.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

Linda Lavarch MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice