



Hon Henry Palaszczuk MP
Member for Inala



**Minister for Natural Resources
and Mines**

CTS 07083/05

- 9 DEC 2005

Mr N J Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Alice and George Streets
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear ~~Mr~~ ^{Mal} Laurie

I refer to your letter of 9 November 2005 enclosing a copy of Petition No. 572-05 lodged in the Queensland Legislative Assembly.

The Petition draws to the attention of the House - the unnamed dam currently under construction on the Burnett River located approximately 33 km outside of Biggenden. This dam is being constructed over the old gold mining town of Paradise. The petitioners therefore request the House to consider naming this dam as either Paradise Dam or Lake Paradise.

The Department of Natural Resources and Mines has a statutory obligation under the *Place Names Act 1994* (the Act) to administer naming of places. Under the Act, a place is described as an area or geographical feature, which may be natural or artificial. Dam walls and similar man made structures are specifically excluded from its provisions; however the lake behind the dam wall meets the criteria for place naming.

The naming of structures is the responsibility of the owner and is covered by a non-statutory process. While it is recognised that the term 'dam' is sometimes popularly used for the water body impounded by such a wall, the Department follows the national convention of using the term 'lake' for the water body and 'dam' for the wall or structure.

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The Department received a proposal from the Burnett River Cultural Heritage Committee to name the lake, which will be formed by the 'Burnett River Dam'. This proposal was signed by representatives from five of the local Aboriginal groups. The proposed name is 'Lake Boolgee', from the Aboriginal word meaning 'full'.

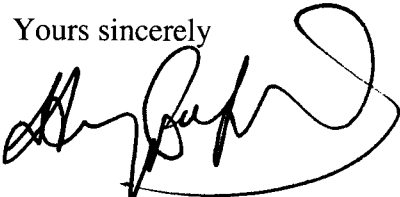
The Department is currently seeking public comment under the Act on the proposed name for the lake. This statutory public consultation period will close on 21 December 2005.

All comments and submissions will be considered prior to a decision on the lake name being made. The decision will be published in the Queensland Government Gazette and local print media.

Any comments or suggestions received, relating to the naming of the dam structure are being forwarded to the Coordinator-General (the owner) for his consideration.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Henry Palszczuk', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

HENRY PALSZCZUK MP