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Your Ref:580-05

12 December 2005

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliamentary Service
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 10 November 2005 enclosing a copy of a petition received by the House on 9 November 2005 regarding the Japanese Government's intention to expand its whaling program and the effect this would have on the humpback whales that migrate along the east and west coasts of Australia each year.

Both the Queensland and Australian Governments oppose all forms of whaling and this position has been conveyed regularly by the Australian Government at international forums, such as the annual meetings of the International Whaling Commission. The Queensland Government supports the Australian Government's efforts to promote the conservation of dolphins and whales in the international arena.

Dolphins and whales are protected in Australia under State and Commonwealth legislation. In Queensland waters, they are protected under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, administered by the Environmental Protection Agency. The management framework for dolphins and whales is prescribed within the Nature Conservation (Whales and Dolphins) Conservation Plan 1997.

I hope this information is helpful to you.

Yours sincerely

Desley Boyle MP
Minister for Environment
Minister for Local Government and Planning
Minister for Women