



**Hon Desley Boyle MP**  
Member for Cairns



**Queensland  
Government**

Our Ref: BNE22760-1  
BNE2006/10952  
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Your Ref: 705-06

**Minister for Environment**

**Minister for Local Government  
and Planning**

**Minister for Women**

28 AUG 2006

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Queensland Parliamentary Service  
Parliament House  
Cnr Alice and George Streets  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

*29/8/06  
Table on Parliament  
Ringside*

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 10 August 2006 concerning a petition received by the House on 9 August 2006 regarding the former Coolangatta Special School at Kirra Hill.

The Queensland Heritage Council's (QHC) decision not to enter the former Coolangatta Special School in the Queensland Heritage Register is not one that is within my power to overturn. The QHC is a statutory authority independent of Government, and is solely responsible for deciding whether or not to enter a place in the Heritage Register. It must operate within the framework of the *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*, which outlines the criteria that determine whether the QHC may enter a place in the Register. The Government has no direct role in these decisions.

A decision to enter a place can be challenged in the Planning and Environment Court, and the QHC must be confident that a place meets the threshold for entry as a place of State heritage significance. In deciding that the nomination did not satisfy that threshold, the QHC acknowledged that the site demonstrated heritage significance at a local level. The QHC wrote to the Gold Coast City Council, encouraging its recognition of those local heritage values through the local authority's planning scheme.

I hope this information is helpful to you.

Yours sincerely

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



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