



Hon Craig Wallace MP
Member for Thuringowa



**Queensland
Government**

Ref CTS 06732/07

**Minister for Natural Resources
and Water and Minister Assisting
the Premier in North Queensland**

24 AUG 2007

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

Dear Mr Laurie *Neil*

I refer to your letters of 24 May 2007, enclosing copies of Petition Nos. 783-07, 797-07 and 828-07, lodged in the Queensland Legislative Assembly.

The petitions draw to the attention of the House, the petitioners' rejection of the Mooloolaba Spit Futures Study and opposition of the use of Crown land on the Spit for the development of high rise buildings.

The petitions request that the House retain the Crown land for public use and send the plans back for reconsideration and proper consultation and involvement.

The joint State Government and Maroochy Shire Council Mooloolaba Spit Futures Study process was announced by the Premier at a Sunshine Coast Community Cabinet meeting on 15 May 2005.

Since the Master Planning study was announced there has been, and continues to be, extensive consultation involving all stakeholders and those with an interest in the future of the Mooloolaba Spit including:

- in excess of 22 000 individual contacts with stakeholders and the general community;
- seven Community Reference Group meetings;
- two newsletters distributed to over 22 000 individuals;
- a toll free project hotline;
- an interactive project website;
- public information sessions (attended by over 1000 individuals);
- two open days (with attendance by approximately 300 individuals);
- a random telephone survey;
- meetings with elected representatives, key stakeholders and community groups; and
- a public presentation (attended by 108 people).

Copies of the draft Master Plan were made available in hard copy and on computer disk free of charge, and could be downloaded from the Council's website.

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On 7 February 2007, the draft Master Plan was released for formal public consultation for a seven week period, closing on 26 March 2007. In response to requests from the community for additional time, the consultation period was extended to 30 April 2007, which resulted in a 12 week public consultation period.

As a result of this consultation, 139 written submissions and three petitions were received. These submissions have been analysed and the draft Master Plan is being reviewed in light of this feedback. A public presentation, attended by 108 people, was held in Maroochy Shire on 9 August 2007, to provide a summary of the submissions received, the steps required to finalise the Plan and to enable the Project Steering Committee to respond to a range of issues raised during the consultation process.

The following day, 10 August 2007, a meeting was held with the Community Reference Group, a group made up of representatives of all stakeholders in the Mooloolaba Spit, including the principal petitioner of each of the petitions. At this meeting the Community Reference Group generally supported most elements of the draft Plan. The outstanding elements relate to the level and intensity of development envisaged by the draft Plan in the Mooloolaba Wharf/ Underwater World precinct, and issues relating to traffic and parking in the general Mooloolaba area, not just within the Spit.

At the public presentation and Community Reference Group meeting, the Project Steering Committee advised stakeholders that they have commissioned additional design work on the Wharf/Underwater World precinct and Council, in conjunction with the project's consultants, will conduct a further traffic study on the wider Mooloolaba area to inform the master planning process. These additional studies and work are to be completed before any decisions on finalising the draft Plan is made, and presented to both Council and the State Government for consideration and endorsement. The Community Reference Group endorsed this approach and members of the Steering Committee will continue to have discussions with them and other stakeholders on the outstanding concerns.

I appreciate the efforts of all those who have commented on the draft Master Plan for the Mooloolaba Spit Futures Study. The views expressed in the petitions, along with other community feedback, is assisting the Department of Natural Resources and Water, the Department of Transport and the Maroochy Shire Council, in the consideration of changes that are needed to the draft Master Plan. I stress that no decision on the Mooloolaba Spit Futures Study has been made.

The State Government and Maroochy Shire Council are committed to working with people to ensure a sustainable future and balanced use for the Spit that acknowledges the different aspirations of all its stakeholders. I trust that the Study, when completed, will provide an effective mechanism for ensuring that decisions on the future use and development of State-owned land on the Spit are sustainable.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely



Craig Wallace MP
**Minister for Natural Resources and Water and
Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland**