



**Hon Craig Wallace MP**  
Member for Thuringowa



**Queensland  
Government**

Ref CTS 02893/07

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

19 APR 2007

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

Dear Mr Laurie 

I refer to your letter of 8 March 2007 enclosing a copy of Petition No. 791-07 lodged in the Queensland Legislative Assembly.

The Petition draws to the attention of the House, the affected and potentially affected landholders call for recognition of their severely depleted surface and underground water, as determined by the Water Monitoring Program that has operated for 30 years as an attachment to Cement Australia Limited mining leases.

The Petition requests that the House support a district remedy in the form of a grout curtain close to the Cement Australia East End open cut mine and the subsequent pump back of good quality water under recharge conditions to the Wallaby Lane injection site.

The East End Mine (the Mine) at Mt Larcom is owned by Cement Australia Limited. The Mine is situated 24 kilometres from Gladstone, and is Queensland's largest limestone mine operation. It supplies limestone to a processing plant at Fisherman's Landing, near Gladstone, where it is processed into cement and clinker. The mining lease conditions require the Company to provide rectification, usually in the form of a replacement pump or new bore, to any landholder whose water supply is determined to be adversely affected by the operation of the Mine.

Groundwater in the Mount Larcom area is predominantly used for stock and domestic purposes and this area, like most of central Queensland, has received below average rainfall for a number of years which has meant that both the surface and groundwater resources are at low levels.

There has been a long history of ongoing work to resolve disputes between the East End Mine Action Group (EEMAG) and the Mine, in particular the long running dispute over the impacts of the Mine in the Bracewell area, located upstream of the Mine. In essence, EEMAG contends that the zone of impact of the dewatering extends beyond the current boundaries and that it affects the Bracewell area.

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A pump back injection scheme has been proposed previously, with the scheme advancing as far as the purchase and laying of pipe by the Mine. However, the scheme has never proceeded for a number of operational reasons, including agreement with EEMAG on the quality of the water to be injected.

Petition 791-07 arises from a public meeting at Mt Larcom on 17 February 2007, attended by local residents, the Member for Gladstone, Mrs Liz Cunningham, and the Member for Fitzroy, Mr Jim Pearce. Staff from the Department of Natural Resources and Water (the Department) and Mine management also attended the meeting. A petition calling for the recognition of the severely depleted surface and groundwater, and seeking support of the State Government and its agencies for a district remedy in the form of a grout curtain and pump back of good quality water to an injection site, was circulated for signatures. The argument presented at the public meeting was that a grout curtain combined with a pump back scheme would stop the down valley flow towards the Mine and solve the perceived problem.

An updated review of groundwater issues in the Mount Larcom area is currently being finalised by the Department. This report will summarise the existing hydrological data and information available and examine the water level behaviour of the area since the Mine commenced operation. The report will also provide important information to allow an assessment to be made on whether or not the proposed grout curtain is likely to have any beneficial effects.

It is recommended that this report be completed before considering further options. Upon finalisation of the report, the Department will discuss the options and the way forward with relevant stakeholders.

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**

M/07/01200



# Queensland Parliamentary Service

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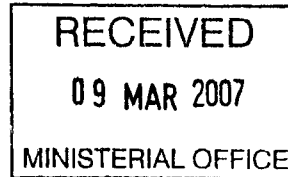
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Your Ref:

Our Ref: 791-07

8 March 2007

Hon Craig Wallace MP  
Minister for Natural Resources and Water and  
Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland  
PO Box 15456  
CITY EAST QLD 4002



Dear Minister

### Petition received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly No. 791-07

It is a requirement of Standing Orders of the Queensland Legislative Assembly that I forward a copy of the wording of every petition received by the House to the minister responsible for the subject matter of the petition.

I therefore enclose a copy of the wording of a petition, number 791-07, lodged by the member indicated and received by the House on 7 March 2007. Please note that each petition now has a unique identifying number so as to easily identify it from other similar petitions.

Under Standing Orders, the minister may forward a response ("ministerial response") to the Clerk and it shall be tabled.

Additionally, under Standing Orders, I am required to publish responses on the Parliamentary website and, therefore, would appreciate an electronic version of your response. Please email the electronic version to [TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au).

If the subject matter does not fall within your portfolio responsibilities then please either (a) return it to the Clerk's Office or (b) forward it to the relevant minister.

Yours sincerely

Neil Lurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament

Enc

Min Office comment:

ACK

To Dept for

MIN REPLY

SPA

SPA/WATER

BRIEF

INFORMATION

ACTION

14/3/07

02893/07

FORM

PETITION

130 signatures  
2/3/07  
Mummingham

TO: The Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland

The petition of residents of the State of Queensland

Draws to the attention of the House

(State grievance)

affected and potentially affected landholders of Bracewell, East End, Cedar Vale and Hut Creek in the Mt Larcom District call for recognition of their severely depleted surface and underground water (as determined by the Water Monitoring Program that has operated for 30 years as an attachment to the Cement Australia Limited mining leases.)



Your petitioners therefore request the House to

(State action required)

support a district remedy in the form of a grout curtain close to the Cement Australia East End open cut mine and subsequent pump back of good quality water under recharge conditions to the Wallaby Lane injection site.

Principal Petitioner: Rodney W Geaney  
8 Butler St  
Clinton Heights  
Gladstone 4680

(Here follows the signatures)

NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
IRENE WARELL	456 WILMOTT RD, MTLARCOM Q 4685	I. C. Warell
BO BERGSTRÖM	178 WALLABY LANE MT LARCOM	B. Bergström
ERICK THOROGOOD	LOT 36 WALLABY LANE MTLARCOM	E. Thorogood
Leslie Holzheimer	Machine Creek Mt. Larcom	L. P. Holzheimer
JOE AUSTIN	Bracewell Mt Larcom	J. K. Austin
Jim Davison	FOX LANE MT LARCOM	J. Davison
LORNA DAVISON	FOX LANE MT LARCOM	L. Davison
MERV. McARTHUR	14 RAGLAN ST. MT LARCOM	M. McArthur
M. McARTHUR	14 RAGLAN ST MT LARCOM	M. McArthur
B. PADGET	465 WILMOTT RD MT LARCOM	B. Padget
LYN PADGET	465 WILMOTT RD MT LARCOM	Lyn Padget
DON HARGREAVES	387 Ambrose - Braacull Rd	D. Hargreaves
Julie Hargreaves	387 Ambrose - Braacewell	J. Hargreaves
KEN SCHULTZ	360 Ambrose - Braacewell Road	K. Schultz