



Hon Andrew McNamara MP
Member for Hervey Bay



**Queensland
Government**

**Minister for Sustainability,
Climate Change and Innovation**

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

Dear Mr Laurie *Neil,*

Thank you for providing on 13 November 2007, a copy of the wording for petition No. 811-07 concerning the proposed closure of Hook Point beach access on Fraser Island.

This petition is in response to the planned closure to vehicles of a section of the eastern beach on Fraser Island, which is a key desired outcome of the *Great Sandy Region Management Plan 1994-2010*. This Management Plan, approved by the Queensland government, is the product of extensive community consultation.

The Management Plan identifies that the removal of vehicle traffic from this 18 kilometre section of beach will provide significant social, recreation and conservation outcomes. It will provide the only opportunity for low key, off-beach camping adjacent to a traffic-free beach on the east coast of Fraser Island. Visitors, especially families, will be able to enjoy a section of Fraser Island's eastern beach free from the worry or intrusion of motor vehicles.

In order to meet the Management Plan objective of closing the beach 18 kilometres northwards from Hook Point, the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) upgraded the old mining road, which runs parallel to the beach, to a standard allowing safe travel for the forecasted volume of traffic. Prior to severe flooding in late August this year, an independent and expert road safety review of the Hook Point Road confirmed that required standards had been met.

However, flood damage to the road has meant the QPWS has to reassess safety and durability standards and possibly reconsider the range of surfacing options. As a consequence, I have deferred the closure of the beach, but the Government's intention to provide for vehicle-free recreation and the protection of shorebirds on this section of the eastern beach remains unchanged – provided it is feasible to do so.

I should like to thank the petitioners for their interest in this issue and I hope that they will come to understand that a greater public benefit will be served if vehicle traffic is eventually diverted from this section of beach on Fraser Island.

Yours sincerely

Andrew McNamara MP
Minister for Sustainability,
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