



Hon Paul Lucas MP

Our ref: TN128052/MC08.783

10 JUL 2008

Mr Neil Laurie  
Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
Cnr Alice and George Streets  
Brisbane QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

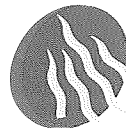
Thank you for providing me with a copy of the wording of petition no. 998-08, lodged with the Legislative Assembly of Queensland about proposed amendments to the Mareeba Shire Planning Scheme, specifically in relation to the Myola area.

The Myola area, located near Kuranda on the Atherton Tablelands, was first identified in the Far North Queensland Regional Plan 2010 (FNQ2010) in 2000 as a strategic location for urban growth. This designation was intended to manage the largely unchecked expansion of rural residential development occurring at Myola and to assist in accommodating an increasing population in the region.

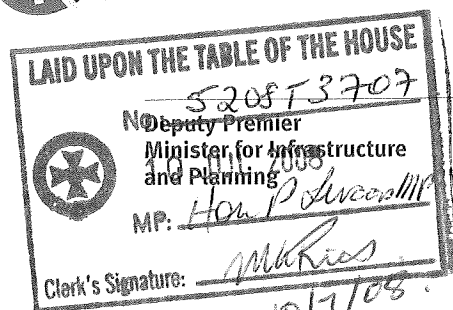
I am advised that since the release of FNQ2010, the sustainable development of Myola has been the subject of significant investigation and consultation, including:

- the Myola Feasibility Study in 2001, published by the former Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation (DLGPSR)
- the detailed Myola Planning Study, commissioned by the former DLGPSR in October 2005
- detailed work undertaken by the Department of Main Roads.

I am further advised that the purpose of the 2005 Myola Planning Study was to identify detailed planning provisions and controls for incorporation into the Mareeba Shire Planning Scheme. The outcomes sought by the study were to achieve a sustainable urban community at Myola of around 9000 – 11 000 people to co-exist adjacent to the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area and within an area of ecological and scenic value. A number of key state agencies and former Mareeba Shire Council representatives were part of the Myola Working Group which provided technical guidance and advice to the consultant during the preparation of the study.



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Subsequently, I understand the Council resolved to amend its planning scheme in accordance with the Myola Planning Study recommendations and sought approval from the former Minister for Local Government, Planning and Sport, the Honourable Andrew Fraser MP, to publicly notify the proposed amendments in late 2006. Following an extensive state interest review process, including review against the FNQ2010 Regional Plan, approval was given on 14 August 2007 for Council to publicly notify the draft planning scheme amendments.

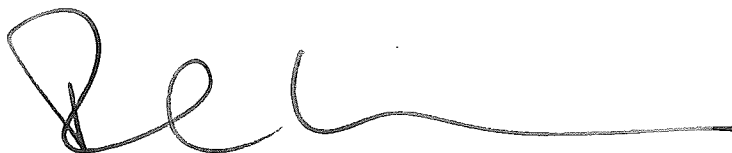
I am advised that public notification was completed on 31 October 2007 and that Council received approximately 100 submissions. Under the Integrated Planning Act 1997, Council is required to consider every properly made submission before deciding whether to proceed with the planning scheme amendment as notified, with modifications or not at all.

I understand that on 29 January 2008, Council resolved to proceed with the planning scheme amendment with modifications. The Department of Infrastructure and Planning is currently waiting for Council to resubmit the proposed amendment for my final consideration of state interests and approval to adopt. The final state interest review will be coordinated by the department, with input from key state agencies, and reviewed against contemporary policy, including the draft statutory Far North Queensland Regional Plan 2025 (FNQ2025) currently out for consultation.

I am further advised that as part of the preparation of the FNQ2025 Regional Plan, extensive work is currently being undertaken to determine the statutory urban footprint for the region, including infrastructure requirements (such as roads, water, sewerage, etc.) to accommodate the projected urban growth. Ultimately, the FNQ2025 Regional Plan will direct how urban growth is managed within the region. Subsequent planning scheme amendments, including the draft Myola amendments, will be reviewed for consistency with the policy intent set by the draft and finalised regional plan.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. If you require any further information, please contact Ms Adriana Fuoco, Planner, Northern Region Division, Department of Infrastructure and Planning on 4760 7534 who will be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Lucas', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**PAUL LUCAS MP**

**Deputy Premier**

**Minister for Infrastructure and Planning**