



Hon Peter Lawlor MP
Member for Southport



MN116279
OGR-03078

Minister for Tourism and Fair Trading

20 SEP 2010

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 20 August 2010 about e-petition number 1427-10 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 19 August 2010. The principal petitioner is Ms Anne Vetter of Mayfair Drive, Gympie, who is seeking the reversal of the decision to prioritise funding from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund for solar sport and community group grants. Mr David Gibson MP, Member for Gympie, is the sponsoring member of the e-petition.

On 9 May 2010, the Honourable Anna Bligh MP, Premier and Minister for the Arts, announced that, from 1 June 2010, there will be a new priority for the Gambling Community Benefit Fund in the form of solar sport and community group grants. Under the solar sport and community group grants, it is anticipated that approximately \$3.3 million per year for the next three years will be prioritised from the fund for the purchase and installation of 1.5 kilowatt solar voltaic (PV) panels and solar hot water systems.

The petitioners' concerns about the capacity of special schools' parents and citizens associations to apply for specialised equipment is noted. From the list provided, it is not clear if any signatories represent special schools, however I can assure that over the three year period, eligible organisations will still be able to apply to the fund for other eligible items or services. Applications for both the solar sport and community group grants and standard Gambling Community Benefit Fund grants will be able to be made in the same round.

Short term prioritisation of the fund has previously occurred in response to emergent issues. For example, in June 2006 the then Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for State Development, Trade and Innovation, the Honourable Anna Bligh MP as Minister responsible for the fund, set a priority for applications received from schools' parents and citizens associations and parents and friends associations for facilities relevant to preparatory year students for a period of 18 months.

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During the equine influenza period in October 2007, the Honourable Andrew Fraser MP, Treasurer, as Minister responsible for the fund, set a priority for applications received from pony clubs and similar organisations.

The prioritisation for solar sport and community group grants will continue.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Peter Lawlor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a trailing flourish.

Peter Lawlor MP
Minister for Tourism and Fair Trading