



Hon Steve Dickson MP  
Minister for National Parks, Recreation,  
Sport and Racing

Our Ref: CTS 19036/14

4 September 2014

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
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Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter concerning Petition Nos. 2236-14 and 2287-14 lodged in the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 5 August 2014.

The Petitions request that the House amend the marine park (green) zone boundary off Barolin Rocks in the Great Sandy Marine Park to enable shore-based fishing.

On 16 February 2014, I sought feedback on a proposal to amend the green zone boundary at Scotts Point in the Moreton Bay Marine Park to allow shore-based recreational fishing. As part of this announcement, I also sought feedback on other marine park green zones where similar shore-based recreational fishing access could be allowed.

It was during this consultation that the Member for Burnett, Mr Stephen Bennett MP, sought a change to the Barolin Rocks green zone to enable shore-based fishing. Mr Bennett is the sponsoring Member for this current petition.

The Barolin Rocks green zone was established in 2006 following the declaration of the Great Sandy Marine Park. This green zone includes representative examples of fringing coral reef on rock basalt foreshore and includes the southern limit of some Great Barrier Reef coral species. The area also has high species diversity including fish, turtles, sea snakes, and a range of smaller reef species.

In 2012, the Courier-Mail listed Barolin Rocks as one of the top 10 dive sites in south-east Queensland and it is known as a popular tourism and recreational dive site.

During the consultation for the Scotts Point proposal, Dive Queensland made a submission opposing any change to green zones emphasising the important role green zones play for the tourism industry and recreational divers.

At this time, the Government has decided not to proceed with the proposal to allow limited recreational fishing within the Scotts Point green zone area and there are no current plans to change any other green zone boundaries, including Barolin Rocks green zone.

It should also be noted that moving the green boundary 200 metres offshore as suggested in the petition would remove the protection from the Barolin Rocks reef. Given the high natural values of the area, the unique features present at the site and the importance to tourism and recreational diving that approach would not be supported.

Under the current zoning, 96 per cent of the Great Sandy Marine Park is open for recreational fishing ensuring a wide range of shore based and vessel based fishing opportunities being available.

Any future rezoning proposals will be considered when the relevant marine park's zoning plan is due for renewal. For the Great Sandy Marine Park Zoning Plan the renewal date is 2016.

I hope this information has been of assistance to you. Should you have any further enquiries, please contact Ms Johanna de Winter, Chief of Staff in my office, on telephone (07) 3719 7110.

Yours sincerely

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

**Steve Dickson MP**  
**Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing**