



Hon Paul Lucas MP



Our ref: MC11/4461
LG/11/4341
Your ref: Petition

Attorney-General
Minister for Local Government and
Special Minister of State

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Re: Petition No. 1823-11 – Request to remove provisions in the Cairns Airport Draft Land Use Plan for a Movement Expansion Precinct and restrict any site development that results in the removal of any mangrove wetland surrounding the Cairns Airport

Thank you for your letter to the Honourable Paul Lucas MP, Attorney-General, Minister for Planning and Special Minister of State dated 9 December 2011.

I appreciate the proposed Movement Expansion Precinct and any site development that results in the removal of any mangrove wetland at Cairns Airport may be a matter of great concern for residents.

The *Airport Assets (Restructuring and Disposal) Act 2008* (AAA08) governs the process for North Queensland Airport (NQA) to replace or amend the first land use plan for Cairns Airport.

I am advised that the Cairns Airport Draft Land Use Plan 2010 (LUP) was publicly notified from 15 December 2010 to 25 February 2011. I am further advised that NQA is currently considering State interest review comments, the Local Government's submission and public submissions prior to finalising the draft LUP. As such, the LUP has not yet been submitted to the Planning Minister for final approval.

I have been informed that NQA recently commissioned a range of economic studies to inform the final LUP. This includes the economic impact of a second runway and the requirement for a Movement Expansion Precinct. These studies have been initiated by NQA and are not the subject of decisions by the State government at this point in time.

I am advised that NQA does not anticipate submitting the LUP to the State until mid 2012.

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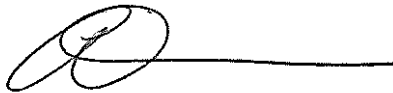
Once the LUP has been submitted to the State, the Planning Minister is given power under the Section 41 of the AAA08 to approve the final LUP. The Planning Minister must be satisfied that:

- State interests will not be adversely affected by the draft LUP
- core matters, such as land use and development, core airport infrastructure and valuable features, have been satisfactorily dealt with
- issues raised written submissions have been appropriately taken into account
- the Local Government does not have a substantial objection to the draft LUP.

In the interim, the First Land Use Plan (dated January 2009) continues to control development of the Cairns Airport. DLGP is the assessment manager for certain development on airport land. I have been advised by DLGP that it is not aware of any current development proposals that would result in the removal of mangrove wetland within the Cairns Airport.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized initial 'A' followed by a long horizontal line.

ANNASTACIA PALASZCZUK MP
Acting Attorney-General,
Minister for Local Government
and Special Minister of State