



The Hon Dr Anthony Lynham MP
Minister for State Development and
Minister for Natural Resources and Mines

Our Ref: MO/15/2405
MC15/5166

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petitions 2433-15 and 2452-15, lodged with the Legislative Assembly on 15 September 2015, requesting the House to amend the Sustainable Ports Development Bill 2015 (the Bill) to include the ports of Cairns and Mourilyan as 'priority ports'.

The Bill gives effect to a number of Queensland Government commitments relating to port development in the *Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan*, including limiting priority ports to Gladstone, Hay Point/Mackay, Abbot Point and Townsville. This plan was submitted to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's (UNESCO) World Heritage Committee for its consideration and strongly influenced the committee's recent decision to not place the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (GBRWHA) on its "world heritage in danger" list.

As you may be aware, the Bill is yet to be debated by the Queensland Parliament. The government will not divert from elements of the Bill which form part of our Reef 2050 plan. The Queensland and Australian Governments committed to UNESCO to limit priority status to the existing bulk commodity ports, and that commitment must stand.

The government recognises that the Port of Cairns supports significant levels of economic activity at a regional level and is considering a number of options to provide certainty in planning for the future operation of the port. However, any future development must be consistent with the government's commitment to protect the GBRWHA and its ban on sea based disposal of port related capital dredge material.

If you have any questions about my advice to you, Mr Adrian Noon, Acting Chief of Staff, will be pleased to assist you and can be contacted on 3719 7360.

Yours sincerely

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

Dr Anthony Lynham MP
Minister for State Development and
Minister for Natural Resources and Mines