



Hon Dr Steven Miles MP
Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and
Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef

Our Ref: CTS 26305/16
Your Ref: 10.4 Petitions

11 NOV 2016

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 13 October 2016 concerning Petition No. 2647-16 tabled by the House on 12 October 2016 regarding a proposed shooting range complex in the Curra State Forest near Gympie.

My in-principle support for this shooting range complex proposal within Curra State Forest remains on the provision that Gympie Regional Council, as the proponent, satisfies a number of necessary conditions. These conditions include the resolution of Native Title requirements, timber harvesting and apiary sites. Council is also required to address the social displacement of other users in the area before the proposal can progress to the next stage.

On the matter of compensation from the proponent for the loss of the land, and its inherent values, I am not aware of any documented correspondence committing to waiving revocation compensation for this proposal. The compensation ratio applied to revocation of State forest lands is set by the Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing's operational policy, which is consistent with the Queensland Environmental Offsets Policy, the *Environmental Offsets Act 2014* and reflect the inherent and special attributes of these areas and the investments the State has made over time.

However, officers of the Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing are working closely with Council on potential compensation options with the aim of offsetting the revocation requirements via an agreement with the State that ensures the conservation and commercial aspects of the land are retained. An agreement such as this is reliant on the results of further investigation from other relevant Queensland Government departments.

I would be pleased if you would arrange for the tabling of this letter in response to the Petition in accordance with Standing Order 31 by 11 November 2016.

I hope this information has been of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Miles'.

DR STEVEN MILES MP
Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and
Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef