



Hon Steve Dickson MP
Member for Buderim



Queensland
Government

Ref: CTS 14137/12

Minister for National Parks,
Recreation, Sport and Racing

~~03 OCT 2012~~

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to your letter of 13 September 2012 enclosing a copy of Petition No. 1963-12 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly.

The Petition requests that the current tender for the catering at the Tallebudgera Active Recreation Centre be cancelled.

The centre is a multi-purpose residential sport and recreation facility that provides adventure based active recreation programs to schools, sport and recreation organisations and community groups. It is managed by the Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing.

The Department of Education, Training and Employment (DETE) operates the Tallebudgera Beach School (TBS) as a separate entity within the centre. Catering services are currently provided to the centre by DETE under the provisions of an expired Memorandum of Understanding.

The provision of affordable and quality food services is a key objective of the tender for catering services at the department's Active Recreation Centres, which was recently released for submission and closed on 10 September 2012.

The Petition asserts that the public tender for catering services does not take into account the full scope of services provided by the current catering contractor or the learning outcomes achieved by the children being involved in preparation and serving. I am advised that in relation to food preparation, children are not currently permitted to enter the centre's commercial kitchen, a restriction which ensures full compliance with workplace, health and safety requirements and Food Safety Standards.

With regard to TBS children participating in the service of food to children in their own group, this program could continue by arrangement with the successful catering provider. The department is satisfied that the tender adequately addresses food service requirements for all on-site residential and day user clients.

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The decision to undertake a competitive tender for these catering services was made as part of the Queensland Government's current cost savings initiatives, which are aimed at lowering the cost of living for Queensland families.

All caterers, including the current caterers, were welcome to tender for the provision of catering services to the department's Active Recreation Centres and all tenders received will be assessed on their merits against the evaluation criteria.

Queensland Government procurement for services is regulated by the State Procurement Policy to ensure decisions made are fair and impartial, comply with legal requirements and deliver value for money. The open procurement process adopted for the provision of catering services to the Active Recreation Centres meets both the requirements of the State Procurement Policy and departmental procurement policies and procedures. The tender procurement process will continue to ensure that affordable and quality food services are available at the department's remaining Active Recreation Centres—Tallebudgera, Currimundi and Lake Tinaroo.

Should you have any further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Maree Stephens, Manager, Procurement Services of the department on telephone 3137 4255.

I thank the petitioners for taking the time to make me aware of their concerns.

Yours sincerely



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