



Hon Andrew Cripps MP
Minister for Natural Resources and Mines

CLLO/12107

4 DEC 2012

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

Dear Mr Laurie *Neil*

Thank you for your letter of 14 November 2012, forwarding for response petition no. 1889-12, as tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 14 November 2012.

The Queensland Government recognises and is committed to addressing concerns about resource exploration and development in and around population centres, through a comprehensive and consultative statutory regional planning framework. Restricted Area (RA) 384 will remain until statutory regional plans are in place.

However, a one-size fits all approach to this matter is not appropriate. In recognising this, the Government is currently undertaking statutory regional plans for the Darling Downs and Central Queensland that will be tailored to meet the needs of the relevant region. Different regions have different economic and social strengths and issues, and these will be clearly reflected in the plans. Regional Plans for other regions of the State will be progress following the finalisation of the Darling Downs and Central Queensland processes.

The statutory regional planning process will include extensive local input from communities and stakeholders to ensure appropriate development and increased certainty for all stakeholders. I encourage all stakeholders to actively participate in this process.

In addition, the Government has in place strict and comprehensive environmental assessment and approval processes through the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*). This process ensures that mining projects are appropriately conditioned to ensure that impact on sensitive areas are avoided or minimised and that appropriate buffer distances are in place.

If you have any questions about my advice to you, Mr Warwick Squire, A/Director, Land and Mines Policy, Department of Natural Resources and Mines will be pleased to assist you and can be contacted on telephone 3405 3823.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Cripps MP
Minister for Natural Resources and Mines