



Hon Stirling Hinchliffe MP
Member for Stafford



**Queensland
Government**

Minister for Infrastructure and Planning

Our ref: MC10/476

20 DEC 2010

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

Dear Neil

Thank you for your letters dated 24 and 25 November 2010 concerning petitions 1532-10 and 1586-10 sponsored by Dr Alex Douglas MP, Member for Gaven, regarding the proposed closure of the Parklands venue at the Gold Coast.

The petitions seek to draw the attention of the House to the proposed closure of Parklands and state that this action is intended to make way for a large housing project. The petitions raise concerns that, should Parklands be closed, many groups would be severely disadvantaged and that the closure would severely impact on local employment while adding to further traffic congestion. To avoid the above impacts, the petitioners request that an alternative site be found for the housing project.

In response to the petitioners, I advise that the Government's plans for its Parklands property are directed at using the site to its full potential in promoting the social and economic development of the Gold Coast. Parklands is owned by the State Government and currently hosts a number of activities of high social and economic importance to the Gold Coast. In redeveloping Parklands, the Government will ensure that all of these are suitably relocated. The annual Gold Coast Show is the most significant of these activities and a suitable alternative venue for this event is currently being planned at Carrara.

The Government proposes that Parklands be redeveloped to accommodate leading edge health and knowledge related businesses. Economic analysis commissioned by the Government has estimated that a redeveloped Parklands site would yield approximately 6000 jobs within 20 years, the majority of them being in the high income health, research and development areas.

In addition, the Queensland Government is currently preparing its bid for the 2018 Commonwealth Games. A decision on the winning Commonwealth Games bid is not expected until late 2011. As part of Queensland's bid, Parklands is identified as the location for the athlete's village. Buildings constructed for Games accommodation would be completely compatible for activities associated with the Gold Coast University Hospital and Griffith University.

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Once a decision has been made on the 2018 Commonwealth Games host city in November 2011, the future of Parklands can be finalised. Leading up to the Commonwealth Games announcement, the Queensland Government will continue to monitor the recovery of the local development market and explore opportunities for an exciting interface between the Parklands site and the adjacent Gold Coast University Hospital and Griffith University.

Gold Coast City Council and the State Government are working together to ensure that traffic generated by a redevelopment of Parklands would not be excessive. For example, car usage will be reduced by:

- providing light rail transit stations close to the university, the hospital and commercial and residential areas
- providing convenient connections to other public transport networks
- providing a safe cycle and pedestrian network connecting to surrounding areas
- providing a safe network of streets and intersections to improve traffic flow
- locating the residential area adjacent to employment nodes – e.g. the University and the Hospital.

I trust this information is of assistance. If you require any further information, please contact Mr Mark Nicol, Director, Infrastructure Projects Division, Infrastructure and Land Group, Department of Infrastructure and Planning, on 3224 6838 who will be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely



Stirling Hinchliffe MP
Minister for Infrastructure and Planning