



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

Ref CTS 21566/17

4 SEP 2017

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
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Dear Mr Laurie

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05 SEP 2017

MP: MILES

Clerk's Signature:

I refer to your letter of 10 August 2017, enclosing a copy of Petition No. 2767-17 lodged in the Queensland Legislative Assembly. Please accept this letter as my response to this petition and I request that, under Standing Order 32 you table the response by Thursday, 7 September 2017.

I note the petitioners' concern for the welfare of two wild dogs placed on Pelorus Island to control feral goats and their desire for Eagles Nest Sanctuary and Wildlife Hospital to be given the opportunity to take and care for the dogs.

This project has generated many complaints from the public, wildlife organisations and the RSPCA, particularly regarding animal welfare issues. The animal welfare concerns relate to the treatment of the wild dogs themselves and to the impact on the feral goats and risks to smaller, native animals on the Island such as the Beach Stone Curlew.

The animal welfare issues raised by the petitioners are dealt with under laws administered by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. I understand that Minister Byrne has also received a petition about this matter.

I can advise that the deadline by which the Hinchinbrook Shire Council was required to comply with an Interim Conservation Order issued by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) to either remove or humanely destroy the two wild dogs was not met.

EHP's Investigations Unit recently finalised a formal investigation into the potential breach of the Interim Conservation Order and is now considering the results of the investigation to determine an appropriate course of action. As this is an ongoing legal matter, I am unable to provide any further comment at this time.

Should you have any further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact Mr David Cook, Acting Director Wildlife Assessment, Strategic Compliance and Northern Operations of the department on telephone (07) 3330 5393.

Yours sincerely

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