



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

Our Ref: CTS 4600/13
Your Ref: 10.4 Petitions

04 APR 2013

Mr Neil Laurie
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Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to your letter of 6 March 2013 to the Honourable David Crisafulli MP, Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience concerning enclosing a copy of Petition No. 2068-13 lodged in the Queensland Legislative Assembly.

The Petition requests that the House rescind the recent closure of the off-leash area for dogs from Flinders to Amity Point Beaches. I offer the following information:

In December 2011, the Minjerribah Recreation Area (MRA) (which includes Flinders and Amity Point beaches) on North Stradbroke Island, was declared under the *Recreation Areas Management Act 2006* (RAM Act).

Prior to the RAM Act declaration, the Redland City Council permitted 'dogs off leash' on the abovementioned beaches. However post declaration, dogs were only permitted 'on leash', due to legislative provisions under section 122(1) of the RAM Act which states that a person must not take a dog into, or keep a dog in, a recreation area unless the dog is under control.

On 17 October 2012, The State of Queensland and the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation (QYAC) executed a service agreement for the traditional owners to manage the MRA in recognition of the North Stradbroke Island Native Title determination.

Considerable efforts have been made to ensure that the transition following the declaration of the MRA has had minimal impact on residents and visitors, and while dogs continue to be allowed on all beaches and beach camping areas within the MRA, the legislation does not make provision for dogs to be permitted 'off leash' within any recreation area in Queensland.

The Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing (NPRSR) would support discussions with Minjerribah Camping, QYAC and the Redland City Council to progress options for a 'dogs off leash' area.

It is also important to note that two 'off leash' dog exercise areas already exist on Council managed lands located on North Stradbroke Island. These include Home Beach at Point Lookout and Skatebowl Park in Barton Street, Dunwich.

I hope this information has been of assistance to you. Should you have any further enquiries, please contact Ms Johanna de Winter, Chief of Staff in my office on telephone 07 3224 7477.

Yours sincerely



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