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Our ref: MC12/4165

2 9 NOV 2012

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to E-Petition 2002-12 received by the Queensland Parliament on 31 October 2012 concerning flooding to Kinchant Dam Road caused by SunWater discharging water from Kinchant Dam and natural rainfall.

SunWater is the owner and operator of Kinchant Dam. Water is released from Kinchant Dam as part of SunWater's established dam operating procedures. Prior to the release of water from this dam, SunWater contacts all relevant authorities to advise them of water releases and spillway overflow events and continues to liaise as required. This information is also published on SunWater's website.

SunWater is currently undertaking a \$30 million dam safety upgrade on Kinchant Dam as part of SunWater's ongoing dam safety upgrade program. It is anticipated that the upgrade will allow the dam to hold excess water until it can pass safely through the spillway or the outlet works. The upgrades are scheduled to be completed in mid 2013.

Kinchant Dam Road is a local government controlled road owned by Mackay Regional Council. Council's engineering services has been undertaking ongoing major capital works projects as many of council's roads have been repeatedly damaged since the significant flooding events experienced in February 2008.

It is noted that Mackay Regional Council has received a similar petition.

Council has advised that it will formally accept the petition at its ordinary meeting to be held on 5 December 2012. It is anticipated that a report on the matter will be provided to council at its ordinary meeting to be held on 30 January 2013. It is then expected that council will formally respond to the petitioners following consideration of this report by council in January.

The Department of Local Government has requested a copy of council's report on this matter following its presentation to council.

If you require further information, please contact Jo Stephenson, Director, Northern Region on (07) 4799 7195 or jo.stephenson@dlg.qld.gov.au, who will be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely

David Crisafulli MP

Minister for Local Government