



Minister for Housing and Public Works
Minister for Digital Technology
Minister for Sport

Ref: CTS26462/18

20 SEP 2018

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

1 William Street
Brisbane Queensland
GPO Box 2457 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +617 3719 7270
Facsimile +617 3012 9017
E: hpwds@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to e-petition number 2939-18 titled 'Install a statue of rugby league great Cameron Smith at Suncorp Stadium'.

Suncorp Stadium has always been the home of rugby league in Queensland. The Former Origin Greats player plaques on the Northern Plaza provide fans with a place to meet and celebrate the history of the game and the commemorative statues are held sacred as the highest honour for former players. Currently there are four statues in the collection with the first unveiled to Wally Lewis following his final game for Queensland in 1991. In 2012, he was joined by Darren Lockyer and Arthur Beetson and finally Mal Meninga in 2013.

There is no question Cameron Smith has been an outstanding player for Queensland, however the decision to immortalise our sporting greats is not taken lightly and any such decisions require enthusiastic public support as well as the input and endorsement of key stakeholders and funding partners.

On 16 May 2018, the Honourable Anastacia Palaszczuk MP, Premier and Minister for Trade spoke about the achievements of Cameron Smith in the Queensland Parliament following the announcement of his retirement from representative football. The Premier also invited Queenslanders to have their say about possible future statues for Queensland's rugby league greats at Suncorp Stadium, including Cameron Smith, Johnathan Thurston and Allan (Alfie) Langer.

Feedback from the public overwhelmingly favoured former Maroon and Brisbane Bronco Allan Langer, who retired in 2002, as the next Queensland rugby league great to be immortalised in bronze. A tender process will soon be undertaken to commence the planning and delivery of this statue, which will form the focus of iconic player recognition at the venue, for the time being.

Queensland has a rich rugby league history and there are many greats of the game who may be considered worthy of such recognition. I appreciate the petitioners specific proposal in relation to Cameron Smith and will be consulting with the Queensland Rugby League in due course to ascertain their views on future recognition of our Queensland rugby league greats.

I trust that this information is of assistance and I appreciate the petitioners interest in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Mick de Brenni MP
Minister for Housing and Public Works
Minister for Digital Technology
Minister for Sport