



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

Our Ref: CTS 24671/15
Your Ref: 10.4 Petitions (Petition 2437-15 and 2483-15)

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10 NOV 2015

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 15 October 2015 concerning petition Nos. 2437-15 and 2483-15 received by the House on 13 and 15 October 2015, regarding facilities in the vicinity of Mount Coolool National Park. In accordance with Standing Order 125, I provide the following response and request that it be tabled by 12 November 2015.

The Queensland Government recognises the importance of Mount Coolool as an iconic visitor destination on the Sunshine Coast. In recognition of this, the Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing has invested significantly, including in excess of \$500,000 over recent years to upgrade the summit trail.

The Mount Coolool National Park (the national park) is a small but prominent national park to the north of the Sunshine Coast airport, positioned between residential areas on the Sunshine Coast. The Mount Coolool summit walk is promoted as a short walk, taking on average between thirty minutes to one hour to complete a return trip to the summit.

The management plan for the national park states, among other things, that the major purposes of management will be to ensure that natural vegetation and geological formations are protected. Some strategies in support of the management plan's direction and purpose include that visitor access will be confined to pedestrian use only and that no toilets will be provided.

Public facilities in urban settings are generally provided and maintained by local government authorities, and currently Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) has no plans to build a toilet facility at the site. Notwithstanding that, QPWS officers will continue to work cooperatively with the Sunshine Coast Regional Council (Council) on enhancing visitor and recreational access to national parks while maintaining conservation outcomes, and have recently been in contact with Council to discuss these matters further.

It is encouraging to see that Council is currently examining parking issues on the road reserve adjoining the national park. This is a positive initiative that recognises the importance of the national park as an iconic destination that benefits the broader Sunshine Coast economy.

I hope this information has been of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S Miles', is written over the typed name.

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