



Hon Jeff Seeney MP

Deputy Premier

Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning

Our ref: MC14/1043 and MC14/1199
NL250314 and NL030414

Your ref: 10.4 Petitions

15 APR 2014

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Neil".

Dear ~~Mr~~ Laurie

Thank you for your letters of 21 March and 2 April 2014 about petitions 2228-14, 2235-14 and 2239-14 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly about the government's decision to ban mining in the Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve.

The Queensland Government recognises the need to strike the right balance between sustainable agricultural and resource development with the protection of environmentally important areas on Cape York. In this context, the concerns raised in the petitions are noted. However, as part of finding the right balance, the Queensland Government has made the decision to protect the entire Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve from mining activities. Upon its finalisation, the Cape York Regional Plan, together with the *Regional Planning Interests Act 2014*, will provide this protection.

I can assure the petitioners that the government remains committed to expanding the economy of Cape York by encouraging growth in the resource, agricultural and tourism industries. This is consistent with the government's agenda to grow a four pillar economy across Queensland, including the resource sector.

To improve private investment confidence and reduce regulatory impediments in the region, the government has already:

- made amendments to the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*
- undertaken a land tenure review
- made a commitment to granting freehold title on the Cape.

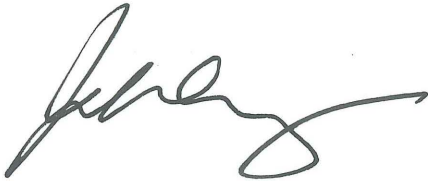
The government is also allowing eco tourism in national parks and reforming leasing arrangements for rural leasehold land.

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The government is creating an appropriate legislative and planning framework for Cape York that will enable new jobs, investment and economic opportunities to benefit all communities in the region while protecting important environmental areas and values. The government also continues to work with and discuss projects in further detail with mining companies and other proponents in the region.

If you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Seeney', with a stylized, flowing script.

JEFF SEENEY MP
DEPUTY PREMIER
Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning