



Hon Stephen Robertson MP

Member for Stretton

- 3 NOV 2004



**Queensland
Government**

**Minister for Natural Resources
and Mines**

Mr N J Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Alice and George Streets
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to your letter of 1 October 2004 enclosing a copy of Petition No 375.04 lodged in the Queensland Legislative Assembly.

The petition draws to the attention of the House the need to provide opportunity for the future development of water delivery to industry and the general community of Collinsville and that the established management plan for long term water infrastructure in the Bowen River-Broken River Scheme be given the highest priority.

The Bowen-Broken river system is experiencing severe drought conditions with very low water levels in Eungella Dam. SunWater is proposing to construct a water harvesting pump station and a 10,000 Megalitre off-stream storage at Gattonvale, near Collinsville. This will address possible water shortages in 2005 and improve the long-term reliability of supply to the high-priority water users of the Bowen Broken Water Supply Scheme. My Department has worked closely with SunWater and local industries, councils and landholders in facilitating the necessary approvals for this development.

My Department is currently in the process of developing a water resource plan for the Burdekin Basin. As the Bowen-Broken river system is a sub-catchment of the Burdekin, this water resource plan will cover the future availability of water in the Bowen-Broken river system.

Water resource plans are developed through a statutory process under the *Water Act 2000*. Key components of this process include consultation with a Community Reference Panel in developing a draft plan followed by public consultation and consideration of submissions received on the draft plan. It is expected that a draft water resource plan for the Burdekin Basin will be released for public consultation in the first half of 2005.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely

STEPHEN ROBERTSON MP

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