

LAID UPON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE
THE CLERK OF THE PARLIAMENT



Hon. Terry Mackenroth MP
MIN52159.04
S04/1880



Deputy Premier
Treasurer
and Minister for Sport

09 JUN 2004

[Signature] 15/6/04

Mr N Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliamentary Service
CENTRAL DOCUMENT EXCHANGE M29

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition No. 303-04 tabled in the Legislative Assembly by Mr J P Langbroek MP, Member for Surfers Paradise on 21 April 2004.

The petition requests the House to call on the Honourable the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy and the Honourable the Minister for Sport to take all necessary action to prohibit the removal of vegetation on areas of Crown land situated at MacIntosh Island and to the north and south of Narrowneck within the city of the Gold Coast.

The petition indicates there is considerable public concern that existing vegetation may be removed from these areas in connection with the Gold Coast Indy Race and associated events and calls upon the Queensland Government to prohibit the removal of such vegetation and the further degradation of, and encroachment on, these areas.

The Gold Coast Indy Race officially titled the Lexmark Indy 300 event is recognised internationally and nationally as one of the premier sporting events in Australia. The event has an estimated economic impact of \$50 million per annum to the Queensland economy with the primary beneficiary of the event being the Gold Coast community.

Any consideration for the future development of areas as nominated in petition number 303-04 would, as the petition correctly identifies, rests with the Gold Coast City Council ("the Council") in the first instance. Representatives of the Gold Coast Motor Events Company, the organisation responsible for the conduct and promotion of the Gold Coast Indy event, advise that an application was lodged with the Council in 2002 for the clearing of vegetation and construction of three viewing mounds in the areas to the north and south of Narrowneck.

Council approved the development of one viewing mound to the south of Narrowneck with no loss of vegetation. The remaining two proposals were not approved by Council.

Any further development of land within the Gold Coast Indy event precinct would, in the first instance, be considered by Council after an application by the Gold Coast Motor Events Company.

I would like to point out that any consideration by the Queensland Government of Indy related development matters within the event precinct area will occur in the full context of the benefits the event brings to the State, particularly the Gold Coast and the impact of any proposed development.

As a consequence, the Queensland Government will not categorically prohibit any further development, but will consider each matter presented to it on a case by case basis.

Should you require further information with regard to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours sincerely

TERRY MACKENROTH