



**Hon Stephen Robertson MP**  
Member for Stretton



**Minister for Natural Resources  
and Mines**

Ref N/05/01092  
CTS 01807/05

**27 APR 2005**

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 24 March 2005 enclosing a copy of Petition No. 450-05 lodged in the Queensland Legislative Assembly.

The Petition draws to the attention of the House the Moreton Mill Weir and its historical significance and aesthetic value to the town of Nambour.

The Moreton Mill Weir is located near the centre of Nambour. The Weir and Weir pool is in a popular recreation area, with walking tracks, picnic and rest areas. The local community catchment group has been very active in revegetation of the Weir pool area.

My Department administers the *Water Act 2000* (the Act), which provides for the sustainable management of water and other resources. The Moreton Mill Weir on Petrie Creek is a structure currently authorised by a water licence under the Act. The licensee is Bundaberg Sugar Ltd who is the registered owner of the adjacent property and previously operated the Moreton Mill.

This Weir has been constructed for some considerable time. My Department is concerned about the safety of the Weir and has written to Bundaberg Sugar Ltd asking them to have the status of the Weir assessed by an engineer.

I have been informed by departmental officers that a public meeting recently held in Nambour was attended by approximately 90 people who fully supported the retention of the Weir. Bundaberg Sugar Ltd representatives attended this meeting and have acknowledged the concerns of the community. Bundaberg Sugar Ltd is subsequently working with the Maroochy Shire Council to resolve issues surrounding the Weir and its future.

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While my Department acknowledges the potential community concerns regarding the Weir's future, my Department and the licensee are required to comply with the provisions of the Act.

I have directed officers of my Department to note your concerns, and to continue working with Bundaberg Sugar Ltd to ensure this issue is resolved within the bounds of the Act, while being aware of the sensitive nature of the proposal to the community of Nambour.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely

**STEPHEN ROBERTSON MP**