



Hon. Paul Lucas MP



**Queensland
Government**

Our ref: MC13121

**Minister for
Transport and Main Roads**

27 JUN 2005

Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Cnr Alice and George Streets
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Re: Petition No. 422-05 - Cairns Yacht Club

I refer to petition No. 422-05 regarding the Cairns Yacht Club (CYC) lodged by the Honourable Desley Boyle MP, Minister of Environment, Local Government, Planning and Women. The petition refers to the history of the clubhouse site and the petitioners request the House to protect the clubhouse building.

The clubhouse for the CYC is located on a site owned by the Cairns Port Authority (CPA) in Wharf Street Cairns overlooking Trinity Inlet.

I am advised the CYC, previously known as the Cairns Sailing Club and Cairns Aquatic Club, has been based at this site since 1917 with the part of current clubhouse being built in 1920 after the original one was destroyed by a cyclone. The petition appears to be incorrect in stating that this clubhouse was built in 1902.

The current clubhouse site and building has changed substantially over the years. Currently there is a short section of sandy beach adjoining the clubhouse. This was added in 1938 following some reclamation work in the area. Many of the features of the building itself date from the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s.

Heritage listing of the clubhouse has been considered a number of times, the most recent being in 2003 when the Queensland Heritage Council (QHC) provisionally listed the property and appointed an independent assessor for advice. In December 2003 the QHC withdrew the provisional listing, determining that the permanent listing would not proceed on the basis that the site is not of cultural heritage significance and that it does not satisfy the criteria for entry in the register.

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The petition refers to the clubhouse building as being a "heritage listed building" and being "identified on the Register of the National Estate". This is not correct. Data on the property has been provided to the Commonwealth's Australian Heritage Council (AHC) for assessment as to whether it should be entered on the Register of the National Estate. The AHC currently has not made a determination in this regard.

The CYC and the CPA entered into a binding Memorandum of Understanding in May 2004 for the CPA to assist the CYC to relocate to new premises to be located in the redeveloped Marina. The new facilities will be purpose designed with the CYC providing direct input into the design process.

When this decision was announced, it was indicated that the CYC Committee had unanimously supported the CPA's proposal to relocate and that the CYC was looking forward to a new future there where it could continue its long and proud history of sailing in the Cairns Community.

The petitioners have requested the House protect the property. This cannot be agreed to as the normal processes within Queensland for heritage listing has been rigorously and completely utilised and it was determined on a number of occasions that its listing cannot be supported. Whether the AHC takes a different view is yet to be determined. In the meantime, planning for the new clubhouse premises is progressing with the full support of the CYC.

Yours sincerely

PAUL LUCAS MP
Minister for Transport and Main Roads