



The Honourable Lindy Nelson-Carr MP
Member for Mundingburra



**Queensland
Government**

- 6 JUN 2007

**Minister for Environment
and Multiculturalism**

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 19 April 2007 and a copy of the wording of petition No. 786-07 concerning the proposed closure of Hook Point beach access on Fraser Island.

This petition is in response to the planned closure to vehicles of a section of the eastern beach on Fraser Island, which is a key desired outcome of the *Great Sandy Region Management Plan 1994-2010*. This Management Plan has been approved by the Government and is a product of extensive community consultation.

The proposal to remove vehicular traffic from this 18 kilometre section of beach will provide significant social, recreation and conservation outcomes. It will provide the only opportunity for low key, off-beach camping adjacent to a traffic-free beach on the east coast of Fraser Island. Visitors, especially families, will be able to safely enjoy a section of Fraser Island's eastern beach free from the worry or intrusion of motor vehicles.

This section of beach is also an important roosting site for migratory shorebirds and their survival will be significantly enhanced by the cessation of vehicle use. Some birds are struck and killed by vehicles, and the birds also suffer fatigue from frequently taking off to avoid oncoming vehicles. These birds rest on the beach to conserve energy reserves required for their return migration, without which they may die en-route from exhaustion.

Given the size of Fraser Island and the significant area of other beaches available for vehicle use, the closure of this small section of beach is considered reasonable to cater for the full spectrum of Fraser Island users.

I thank the petitioners for their interest in this issue and I hope that they will come to understand that a greater public benefit will be served by restricting vehicle access to this small section of beach on Fraser Island.

Yours sincerely

Lindy Nelson-Carr MP
Minister for Environment and Multiculturalism

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