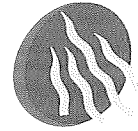




Hon Desley Boyle MP
Member for Cairns



**Queensland
Government**

**Minister for Local Government and
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Partnerships**

10/7256
LA/10/0476

19 MAR 2010

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Corner Alice and George Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 11 February 2010 concerning petition number 1370-10 regarding the proposed skate bowl within the Coastal Reserve situated at Innes Park within the Bundaberg Regional Council Local Government Area.

I can confirm that officers of the Department of Infrastructure and Planning have sought information previously from the Council on this matter. Council had previously contracted a consultancy firm, Ross Planning, to undertake the preparation of an overall management plan for the Innes Park Reserve. The draft management plan was subsequently released for public consultation and at a Council meeting on 24 November 2009, the management plan was adopted.

I have also been advised that Council, at its meeting on 15 December 2009, resolved to proceed with the installation of a skate bowl facility within the Innes Park Reserve, subject to receipt of funding from the Department of Communities' Local Sport and Recreation Program. The petition refers to objection to the project by the Mayor, Councillor Lorraine Pyefinch and Councillor Greg Barnes and this was noted in Council's meeting minutes. A motion to proceed with the project was carried by nine votes to two.

The location of community recreation facilities is a decision for individual Local Governments. Local Governments are charged with taking independent action on a wide range of matters necessary for ensuring the good rule and government of their areas. As such, each Local Government is responsible for how it deals with these matters. In respect of its lawful responsibilities in this case, Council engaged a professional and reputable recreation planning consultant.

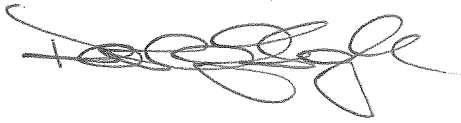
There are limited powers available to the State Government or to me, as the Minister for Local Government, to direct Council or to intervene in respect of this matter.

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A further mechanism the petitioners might like to consider to resolve this issue, is to contact their Local Councillors to ask them to lobby on their behalf to Council on this matter. As an elected representative to Council, their Local Councillor has a responsibility to listen to the views of his or her constituency on matters such as this, and has the ability to take this issue to Council.

Should you require any further information in relation to this matter, please contact Mr Ray Currie, Regional Director, South West Regional Office of the Department of Infrastructure and Planning on telephone number 4616 1985.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Desley Boyle', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Desley Boyle MP
Minister for Local Government and
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
Member for Cairns