



Hon Kate Jones MP
Member for Ashgrove

Ref CTS 10427/10



**Queensland
Government**

**Minister for Climate Change
and Sustainability**

09 JUL 2010

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to your letter of 11 June 2010 enclosing a copy of Petition No. 1464-10 lodged in the Queensland Legislative Assembly.

The Petition requests that the House implement cessation of work on a new project to remove non native vegetation from a 0.5 kilometre length of narrow and vulnerable foreshore dunes at Rickman Parade, Woorim by the Moreton Bay Regional Council (the council), and investigate the various contraventions of State Policies and Acts by this project.

The planned works involve removing an existing fence that separates the formed and unformed parts of the road, and replacing it with a new fence. The new fence will be erected after work has been undertaken to:

- remove non native vegetation from the unformed road and the reserve;
- upgrade existing beach accesses to provide a more controlled and safer access to the beach through the unformed road and remaining reserve;
- widen the verge between the current bitumen surface and the new fence to provide safer pedestrian access and vehicle flow; and
- replant native vegetation species to replace removed pest plants and weeds.

When assessing the initial vegetation management plan, all aspects of legislative requirements were reviewed by departmental officers including the *Land Act 1994* (the road and reserve); the *Local Government Act 1993* (the road); the *Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995* (the road and reserve); the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route) Management Act 2002* (the road and reserve); the *South-east Queensland Regional Coastal Management Plan* (the road and reserve), the *Marine Parks (Moreton Bay) Zoning Plan 2008* (the reserve and foreshore adjoining the reserve).

The planned works being undertaken by the council are not assessable development under the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009* and, therefore, the work does not need to be assessed under the Integrated Development Assessment System. The planned work is excluded works under the *Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995* as the planned works are minor work on State coastal land, for environmental protection purposes. Works of a minor nature include revegetation or vegetation maintenance works and associated fencing, weed control consistent with maintaining frontal dune vegetation, pathway or track maintenance, and open fencing or bollards for vehicle and pedestrian control.

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Any planned works on the dune system should not threaten nesting habitat for endangered loggerhead turtles. Non native vegetation that is of a woody nature will be wood chipped on site so that the wood chip can be used to mulch the dune surface to prevent erosion. The council has also stated in the vegetation management plan that it will use jute matting to stabilise the surface of the dune to prevent erosion. The front of the dune should not be impacted by the planned work.

At a meeting held on site on 26 May 2010, it was agreed by all parties that a further meeting would be convened on site to review the amended vegetation management plan and to identify a trial area within the work site to commence the planned works, with a further review meeting when work in this area is finalised. The council agreed that no further work would be undertaken until the trial area works were completed and reviewed by the department.

In summary, the council is not in contravention of State legislation for the planned works. The work has ceased while the original Vegetation Management Plan for Rickman Parade is being supplemented at the request of the department. Work will only commence when the vegetation management plan has been reviewed by the department and the final outcomes are supported. Departmental officers will monitor the planned works to ensure compliance with the plan, its objectives and the relevant legislation.

Should you have any further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Ken Rogers, Principal Land Officer, South East Region of the department on telephone 3884 8069.

Yours sincerely



Annastacia Palaszczuk
Acting Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability