



Hon Desley Boyle MP
Member for Cairns



**Queensland
Government**

10/40363
LA/10/2548

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

15 SEP 2010

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



Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 24 August 2010 concerning petition 1378-10 regarding the establishment of a water park for the Burnett coast and Bundaberg region.

The establishment of such facilities is a decision to be made by the Local Government concerned. 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. This includes facilitating the provision of a wide range of public amenities, services and facilities and, as such, each Local Government is responsible for how it deals with these matters, including ongoing maintenance costs.

The recently completed water park facility at Hervey Bay, in the Fraser Coast Regional Council area was funded through the Q150 Legacy Infrastructure Program. This Program was designed to provide infrastructure for local communities as a lasting reminder to mark the 150th anniversary of the State of Queensland. Additionally, Queensland Councils have benefited significantly from a history of uncapped State Government grants and subsidies. In fact, since 1998, more than \$4 billion has been approved, primarily to Local Governments to fund valuable and necessary community infrastructure.

The now completed 2006-2011 suite of grants and subsidies, which commenced in 2006 with a State Government commitment of \$700 million over five years, approved more than \$873 million and proved extremely popular and successful. Since 1 July 2006, the State Government approved more than \$9.4 million in grants and subsidies to Bundaberg Regional Council. This includes the current upgrades to the Bundaberg Regional Airport (\$2.4 million subsidy), Gin Gin Streetscape Revitalisation (\$750 000 subsidy) and the West Bundaberg stormwater drainage project (\$448 000 subsidy).

The State Government has committed \$45 million per year under the new Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program, due to commence in July 2011. This new Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program will provide consistency and value for the State's investment in Local Government by targeting those Councils with demonstrated limited capacity to fund priority projects without subsidy assistance.

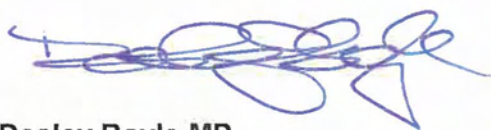
Level 18 Mineral House
41 George Street Brisbane 4000
PO Box 15031 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3227 8819
Facsimile +61 7 3221 9964
Email lgatsip@ministerial.qld.gov.au
ABN 65 959 415 158

It is anticipated that the program guidelines will be released in 2011. The guidelines will provide details on the program including eligibility, application and assessment processes, as well as payment and reporting requirements.

It is appropriate for parties interested in a water park facility to make their views known to the Bundaberg Regional Council in the first instance. These requests should be made in writing to the Chief Executive Officer, Bundaberg Regional Council at PO Box 3130, Bundaberg QLD 4670.

Should you require any further information in relation to this matter, please contact Mr Lachlan McKenzie, Policy Advisor of my office on 3227 8819.

Yours sincerely



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