



Hon Kate Jones MP
Member for Ashgrove

Ref: CTS 15094/10



**Minister for Climate Change
and Sustainability**

20 SEP 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 20 August 2010 enclosing a copy of Petition No. 1480-10 lodged in the Queensland Legislative Assembly.

The Petition requests that the House make strong representations to the Federal Government and to the Federal Environment Minister to make no further closure of fishing areas until the affected communities concerns are addressed; and that an economic and scientific assessment of the impacts of any closures has been undertaken and publicly released for comment.

The marine park planning in the Hervey Bay region relates to the east marine bioregional planning process being undertaken by the Commonwealth Government. Identifying Areas for Further Assessment (AFFAs) is an early step in this process. Economic and social factors will be key considerations as this planning work progresses.

The Queensland Government has been liaising with the Commonwealth on this issue and will provide input into the planning process where appropriate.

More information of AFFAs and marine bioregional planning for the east coast is available from the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts website at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/coasts/mbp/east/index.html> Petitioners are encouraged to raise their concerns directly with the Commonwealth Government.

Should you have any further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact Miss Jayme Teasdale, Principal Planning Officer, Marine and Terrestrial of the department on telephone 07 3330 5889.

Yours sincerely

Kate Jones MP
Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability

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