



Hon Karen Struthers MP
Member for Algeester



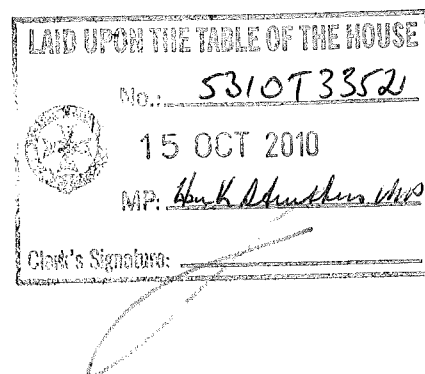
**Queensland
Government**

Your reference: Petition 1424-10
Our reference: H/10/00967
COM 14445-2010

**Minister for Community Services and
Housing and
Minister for Women**

13 OCT 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 17 September 2010 concerning Petition No. 1424-10 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly calling for a halt to a social housing project in Palm Cove, Far North Queensland.

As I previously advised in my response dated 19 May 2010 to Petition No. 1412-10, the site on the corner of Harpa and Oliva Streets, Palm Cove was selected by the Department of Communities as a suitable development under the Nation Building and Jobs Plan. This important initiative has injected considerable funds into the Queensland social housing program, with the Australian Government investing in excess of \$1 billion for the construction of new dwellings to support approximately 4,000 high need households achieve affordable housing solutions. Funding for the Nation Building and Jobs Plan also provides economic stimulus aimed at improved nation building, economic growth and job creation.

The project for 18 two-bedroom units configured as one four-storey building (including ground level) commenced construction in March 2010 and is forecast for completion in early 2011 and I can confirm the department does not intend to revisit the locality, yield or general layout of the project.

The petitioners should note the development is likely to house low-income key workers employed in health, hospitality and other seasonal, tourism-driven industries. These workers would otherwise face difficulty accessing affordable housing within the area where they work.

The proposed development has been assessed in accordance with the 'public housing' provisions of the *Sustainable Planning Act 2000* Chapter 9, Part 5. The project will support people with disabilities with six of the 18 apartments offering fully adaptable features and 12 units being equipped with extensive features for enhanced mobility.

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The petitioners may also care to note this site is within 400 metres of a bus stop. Bus services run on a 30 minute basis to and from this stop, connecting prospective tenants with the retail centre at Clifton Beach, which is 3.2km to the south. The bus service will also provide access to educational, recreational and employment opportunities as well as medical services throughout the northern beaches suburbs.

The Department of Communities will establish a dedicated property manager to liaise and advise on tenancy issues at this complex. This manager's primary responsibility will be to ensure initial and subsequent tenancy allocations are made under the department's Matching for Success approach, which means when filling vacancies, tenants will be appropriately matched to the property, neighbourhood, community and local support services (e.g. work, training or employment opportunities) to ensure the best outcome for tenants and the local community.

I thank the petitioners for raising these important matters with the Government and trust they find this information of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karen Struthers', written in a cursive style.

Karen Struthers MP
Minister for Community Services and Housing
Minister for Women