



Hon Andrew Powell MP
Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection

Ref CTS 11038/14

5 JUN 2014

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Cnr Alice and George Street
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Dear Mr Laurie



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I refer to your letter of 7 May 2014 enclosing a copy of Petition No. 2211-14 lodged in the Queensland Legislative Assembly.

The Petition draws to the attention of the House that crematoriums and their activities are no longer deemed environmentally relevant activities (ERAs) under the *Environmental Protection Regulation 2008*. The petition states that their development applications and operations are not required to be reviewed, monitored and measured adequately to ensure they are not negatively impacting on human and environmental health. The Petitioners therefore request that the House change laws and regulations to once again deem crematoriums and their activities as ERAs.

Crematorium operation was previously a prescribed ERA devolved to local government under the *Environmental Protection Regulation 1998*, which was remade in 2008.

As part of the remaking process, the former Environmental Protection Agency conducted a review of environmental risks associated with all regulated activities. The aim of this review was to increase the focus on those activities posing the greatest potential for environmental impacts, and reducing the administrative burden associated with lower impact activities, where only limited environmental benefit could be achieved through regulatory intervention.

Following extensive public consultation, ERAs of lower environmental risk were deleted where the major impacts were nuisance related, or where they were small scale activities such as crematorium operations.

While some ERAs were deleted, local governments were provided additional enforcement powers, and some penalties were increased. For example, penalties for failing to comply with an abatement notice issued in response to an environmental nuisance were doubled.

Operators of activities no longer requiring a licence are still required to meet their general environmental duty and any other relevant provisions under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* and the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*. The Department remains committed to strong, proportionate and consistent enforcement action.

I hope this information has been of assistance to you. Should you have further enquiries, please contact my Chief of Staff, Mr Troy Collings on 3719 7330.

Yours sincerely

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

ANDREW POWELL MP

Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection