



Anna Bligh MP

13 OCT 2006

Deputy Premier,
Treasurer and
Minister for Infrastructure

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 August 2006 to the Honourable Desley Boyle MP, the former Minister for Environment, Local Government, Planning and Women, concerning the lodgement of a petition (No 686-06) with the Parliament of Queensland regarding the fire at Binary Industries at the Narangba Industrial Estate on 25 and 26 August 2005.

As the Premier has charged The Coordinator-General with responsibility for coordinating matters relating to the Binary Industries fire the following response to the petition is made on behalf of the previous Minister for the Environment, Local Government, Planning and Women.

For your information, the Premier has previously announced that reports relating to the health and environmental impacts of the fire would be released to the public. The Government has released reports relating to the chemical testing carried out on the night of the fire by the Department of Emergency Services' Scientific Unit and Queensland Health's response to that report, namely the *Summary of Scientific Unit Incident Report*. Both reports are available on the Department of Emergency Services website <http://www.emergency.qld.gov.au/>.

Water quality monitoring and sediment testing reports and other information about the Binary clean-up project are available on the Environmental Protection Agency's website at www.epa.qld.gov.au/environmental_management/land/binary_fire_update.

The Environmental Protection Agency has also undertaken groundwater modelling and monitoring downgradient of the Binary Industries site and testing for dioxins at various locations within a one kilometre radius of the Binary Industries site. The Government will release this information when it has been validated by independent experts.

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With regard to the Petitioners' request for an independent and unfettered investigation into possible links between the Binary Industries fire and any reported detrimental medical and environmental conditions, the Government has announced a four-point Narangba Health Action Plan to address community health concerns associated with the Binary Industries fire and the ongoing operation of the estate. Input to the Health Action Plan will be sought from the community and a community group is being established to facilitate this process.

The four stages of the action plan are:

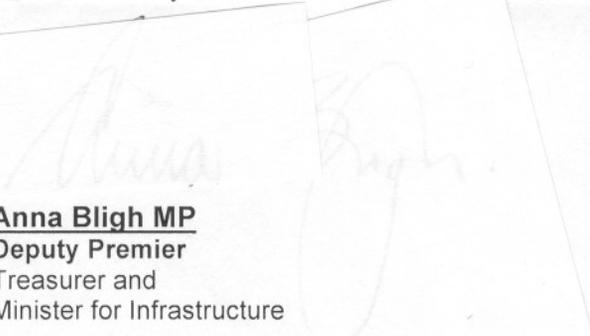
- obtain and analyse preliminary information. This has commenced;
- design a full Health Impact Assessment in consultation with the community, industry and other stakeholders. The assessment is currently being developed. It will study health issues in the local area to determine if there has been any appreciable impact on health caused by the emissions produced during the Binary Industries fire. In addition, ongoing monitoring of emissions will be undertaken in the local area to detect if there is anything coming from the estate that may have an adverse impact on health. This stage is expected to take three months;
- implement Health Impact Assessment projects. Implementation is expected to occur between September 2006 and April 2007; and
- disseminate findings and response in April 2007.

The Health Impact Assessment will be complemented by information Queensland Health has gathered from a self-referring survey undertaken by residents of the area, which will be assessed to provide further insight into the potential health consequences of not only the fire, but the Narangba Industrial Estate generally. Further contribution to the Health Impact Assessment will be sought through a community reference group which is currently being convened.

Membership of the reference group will include a number of representatives with recognised linkages into the local area and community groups. The information provided by the community members will aid the design and implementation of the health impact assessment component of the Health Action Plan.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



Anna Bligh MP
Deputy Premier
Treasurer and
Minister for Infrastructure

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