



The Hon Dr Anthony Lynham MP  
Minister for State Development and  
Minister for Natural Resources and Mines

Our Ref: MO/15/2720  
MC15/5692

Your Ref: 10.4 Petitions

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13 NOV 2015

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
Corner Alice and George Streets  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 19 October 2015 about petition 2441-15, lodged with the Legislative Assembly on 13 October 2015, requesting the House not amend the Sustainable Ports Development Bill 2015 (the Bill) to include the ports of Cairns and Mourilyan as 'priority ports'.

The government agrees that Cairns and Mourilyan ports should not be listed as 'priority ports'. Further, we have stated that we would not divert from elements of the bill which form part of our Reef 2050 plan. The Queensland and Australian Governments committed to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) to limit priority status to the existing bulk commodity ports, and that commitment will stand.

The bill was subject to debate in the Parliament on 10, 11 and 12 November 2015. I am pleased to inform you that the government was successful in passing the bill.

The bill gives effect to a number of Queensland Government commitments relating to port development in the *Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan* (Reef 2050), including limiting priority ports to Gladstone, Hay Point/Mackay, Abbot Point and Townsville. The Reef 2050 plan was submitted to UNESCO World Heritage Committee (WHC) for its consideration, and strongly influenced the WHC's recent decision to not place the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (GBRWHA) on its world heritage 'in danger' list.

The government did recognise that the Port of Cairns is critical economic infrastructure to its city and region, its people and businesses. Amendments were moved to the bill allowing limited dredging in the inner harbour of the Port of Cairns. The proposed amendments allow a maximum of 50 000 cubic metres of material for a single project, and a maximum of 150 000 cubic metres in a four year period. This allows the Port of Cairns to grow as the city grows within strong environmental restrictions.

Any future development must be consistent with the government's commitment to protect the GBRWHA and its ban on sea based disposal of port related capital dredged material. This will ensure the Queensland Government can still meet its port related commitments in our Reef 2050 plan.

If you have any questions about my advice to you, Mr Adrian Noon, Acting Chief of Staff, will be pleased to assist you and can be contacted on 3719 7360.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Lynham', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Dr Anthony Lynham MP**  
Minister for State Development and  
Minister for Natural Resources and Mines