

Our Ref: 203065
BNE2005/18919
E/05/05059
Your Ref: 577-05

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliamentary Service
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 30 November 2005 concerning a petition received by the House on 29 November 2005 regarding the sale of property owned by the National Trust of Queensland.

The Trust has been examining a range of governance issues concerning the operation of its properties, and its need to improve the long-term sustainability of the historic places it holds and manages.

In the case of Little Goat Island, I understand that the Trust acted on legal advice that the Deed of Gift, through which it received responsibility for the Island, was unconditional, and that the Island could be regarded as an asset. The Trust is subject to the stringent provisions of the *Financial Administration and Audit Act 1997*, and the high levels of public accountability that come with its statutory body standing.

I hope this information is helpful to you.

Yours sincerely

Desley Boyle MP
Minister for Environment
Minister for Local Government and Planning
Minister for Women