



Hon Craig Wallace MP  
Member for Thuringowa



Queensland  
Government

Ref CTS 08739/07

Minister for Natural Resources  
and Water and Minister Assisting  
the Premier in North Queensland

7 SEP 2007

Mr N J Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
Cnr Alice and George Streets  
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Mr Laurie 

I refer to your letter of 9 August 2007 enclosing a copy of Petition No. 869-07 lodged in the Queensland Legislative Assembly.

The petition requests that the House stop the rock wall construction and reclamation of Webber Esplanade, Cooktown as a matter of urgency.

Owners consent to the reclamation works on Webber Esplanade, was given by the Department of Natural Resources and Water to Cook Shire Council in August 2004.

On 5 October 2004, the *Integrated Planning Act 1997* (the Act) was amended, which made changes to Owners Consent and Resource Entitlement. The department now only provides Resource Entitlement Consent to a development application, not Owners Consent.

Resource Entitlement was then given to the Cook Shire Council in accordance with the amended Act, to enable Cook Shire Council to obtain development approval for the proposed upgrade of the existing revetment wall.

In providing owners consent and resource entitlement, the department is only consenting to the lodgement of an application for assessment and development approval in accordance with the Act.

As the proposed works to be undertaken by Cook Shire Council are prescribed tidal works, any development applications would require reference to the Environmental Protection Agency, as the concurring agency, as part of the development process.

The department is aware that the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries have assessed the effects of the wall on the marine habitat, coastal process and items of cultural heritage interest, and has provided approval

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to the Cook Shire Council for the reclamation of the Webber Esplanade foreshore. The reclamation and revetment project will help to protect the Queensland Heritage listed Powder Magazine, and the upgrade of the road will improve safe public access to this historical area.

A public consultation process was also undertaken by the Cook Shire Council regarding the proposal.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely

**Craig Wallace MP**  
**Minister for Natural Resources and Water and**  
**Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland**