



Hon Steve Dickson MP
Minister for National Parks, Recreation,
Sport and Racing

Our Ref: CTS 19033/14

4 September 2014

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
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Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 6 August 2014 enclosing a copy of Petition No. 2276-14 lodged in the Queensland Legislative Assembly.

The Petition requests that the House oppose the proposed location for an 'off-road motorcycling facility' in the Mooloolah Logging Area, Beerwah State Forest due to unacceptable environmental, social and economic impacts.

During 2013, the Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing (the department) assessed a number of sites in the Sunshine Coast area to determine their suitability for an off-road motor cycling facility.

The Mooloolah Logging Area which still has future active logging interests to the State Government, was chosen as it is close to both the Bruce Highway and Steve Irwin Way and has the capacity to accommodate a range of activities associated with an off-road motor cycle facility.

An Expressions of Interest process in relation to this is currently underway with information relating to the process available on the department's website.

I note the petitioners' concerns regarding the environmental values of the site and reiterate that the Government is aware of these values and will work to protect them through appropriate planning arrangements.

The location and range of activities proposed for the Mooloolah Logging Area facility was also informed by a market evaluation of trail bike riders, which was undertaken by the Government in collaboration with the Council of Mayors, South East Queensland in 2009. Further information is available on the department's website: <http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/recreation/pdf/trail-bike/trail-bike-market-evaluation.pdf>.

This research also provided insight into the reasons for unlawful riding and how the incidence could be reduced. The learnings from this research were applied to the development of the Queensland Moto Park at Wyaralong, which opened in 2011.

I hope this information has been of assistance to you. Should you have any further enquiries, please contact Ms Johanna de Winter, Chief of Staff in my office, on telephone number (07) 3719 7110.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Dickson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steve Dickson MP
Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing