



Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef
Minister for Science and Innovation

Our Ref: CTS 22882/23
Your Ref: A1193565

1 William Street Brisbane Qld 4000
GPO Box 5078 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7330
Email environment@ministerial.qld.gov.au

8 JAN 2024

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 1 December 2023 enclosing a copy of Parliamentary Petition Nos. 3964-23 and 3995-23 concerning protection of migratory shorebirds and the Moreton Bay Marine Park Zoning Plan.

The Moreton Bay Marine Park was established in 1993 and includes tidal lands and tidal waters from Caloundra Head in the north to the northern breakwall of the Gold Coast Seaway in the south. A large proportion of the Marine Park is also designated as an internationally significant wetland under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (the Ramsar Convention). The Moreton Bay Ramsar site is one of five sites in Queensland.

The Department of Environment, Science and Innovation (the department) manages the Marine Park through the Marine Parks (Moreton Bay) Zoning Plan 2019. The Zoning Plan currently contains a number of provisions to protect shorebirds within the Marine Park by making it an offence for a person to disturb shorebirds by:

- taking a dog into the Marine Park that is not controlled or restrained in such a way as to cause unreasonable disturbance to a shorebird in the Marine Park;
- navigating an aircraft or vessel or driving a vehicle through a group of feeding or roosting shorebirds;
- landing, or taking off in, an aircraft through, or hovering in an aircraft above, a group of feeding or roosting shorebirds; and
- a person must also not cause undue disturbance to the habitat of a shorebird in the Marine Park.

The Zoning Plan also places restrictions on certain activities in each of the four zone types that occur in the Marine Park – Marine National Park, Conservation Park, Habitat Protection and General Use – to ensure that areas of sensitive and/or important habitat are not physically disturbed from impacts associated with development and some commercial fishing methods.

The department is currently in the preparatory stages of a review of the Zoning Plan in accordance with the provisions of the *Statutory Instruments Act 1992*, which requires subordinate legislation to be reviewed every 10 years. The review provides an opportunity to identify issues and propose changes to improve management to deliver the purpose of the *Marine Parks Act 2004*, which is the conservation of the marine environment.

As part of the review, analysis of whether the current Zoning Plan provisions are effective and efficient in protecting shorebirds and their habitat in the Moreton Bay Marine Park will be undertaken.

The recent work by Healthy Land & Water to identify and map significant shorebird roosting and feeding sites in Moreton Bay Marine Park will be considered during the zoning plan review process.

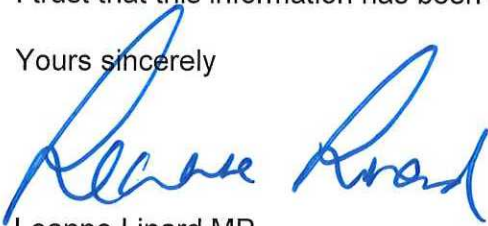
I am aware that there are significant shorebird roosting areas outside of the Marine Park boundary, and of the community calls to increase protection at these sites.

Work is currently being undertaken to consider the issue of increased protection measures for migratory shorebirds within the Moreton Bay Marine Park. The department will continue to have discussions with organisations such as the Queensland Wader Study Group on improving protection measures for shorebird habitat both inside and outside State marine parks.

Our government is committed to the protection of endangered and threatened species, and I note the imperative of ensuring the correct protection measures are in place. The revised Zoning Plan will be finalised in due course, and the concerns raised in this petition will be considered as part of this process.

I trust that this information has been of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely



Leanne Linard MP

Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef
Minister for Science and Innovation