



Queensland
Government

Hon Tim Mulherin MP
Member for Mackay

**Minister for Primary Industries,
Fisheries and Rural and Regional
Queensland**

Reference: 00308/10

10 FEB 2010

Mr Martin Bellert
Secretary
Sunfish Fraser Coast
PO Box 5164
Torquay Qld 4650

Dear Mr Bellert

Thank you for your email of 29 December 2009 concerning construction of a fishway on Burrum River No.1 Weir.

The Burrum River No.1 Weir is owned and operated by the Wide Bay Water Corporation (WBWC) along with Burrum River No.2 Weir and Lenthalls Dam. The Burrum River No.1 Weir separates estuarine and freshwater reaches of the river and is the first significant barrier that migrating fish encounter when moving upstream out of the estuary.

The WBWC is committed to constructing a fishway on Burrum River Weir No.1 as part of a proposal to raise the wall of Lenthalls Dam. Fisheries Queensland, a service of the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI) supports this idea as it will provide greater fish passage benefits in the Burrum River than retrofitting a fishway to Lenthalls Dam. Fisheries Queensland has provided ongoing technical expertise and advice to WBWC for the design process for this fishway and will continue to do so as required.

The complexity of the financial arrangements for the fishway design and construction is a matter for WBWC and the Department of Infrastructure and Planning. Accordingly I have forwarded your letter to my colleague, the Honourable Desley Boyle MP, Minister for Local Government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships for a response to you on this matter.

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