



Hon Desley Boyle MP
Member for Cairns

10/5920
LA/10/0448

9 MAR 2010



**Queensland
Government**

**Minister for Local Government and
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Partnerships**

Mr Martin Bellert
Secretary
Sunfish Fraser Coast
PO Box 5164
TORQUAY QLD 4655

Dear Mr Bellert

Thank you for your letter of 19 November 2009 to the Honourable Tim Mulherin MP, Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Rural Regional Queensland regarding changes to State Government funding arrangements to Fraser Coast Regional Council.

Minister Mulherin's office has forwarded a copy of your correspondence to me for consideration and direct reply.

As you have stated in your letter, Council had planned to construct a fishway as the final phase of the Lenthals Dam raising project. This project was approved under the Local Government grants and subsidies program in March 2006 with an initial subsidy of \$6.14 million. An additional subsidy of \$2.4 million was approved in February 2007.

As a requirement of this funding, the project was to be completed and all funding claimed within two years of the original funding date. Council was advised of this at the time approval was given and thus would have been aware of this requirement.

Subsequent to this, in June 2009 a decision was made by the State Government to lapse unclaimed funding for projects approved prior to 1 July 2006. As the project timeframe for completion had well and truly expired, and Council had only claimed \$6.4 million of the approved funding, the unclaimed funding of \$2 135 040 was withdrawn.

As the Minister for Local Government, I am keen to support Councils to undertake their approved projects and complete them in a timely manner. I do not like to see that projects are not completed and community infrastructure not undertaken by Councils, especially when they have received funding assistance from the State Government to do so.

The State Government has been required to make many hard decisions in response to the global financial crisis. Yet in spite of these turbulent economic times, the Queensland Government, through its Local Government funding programs, has provided funding in the vicinity of \$33.3 million to the Local Government area that now forms the amalgamated Fraser Coast Regional Council since June 2006. Please note this does not include the funding that was withdrawn in June 2009.

Level 18 Mineral House
41 George Street Brisbane 4000
PO Box 15031 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3227 8819
Facsimile +61 7 3221 9964
Email lgatsip@ministerial.qld.gov.au
ABN 65 959 415 158