



Mission Beach Community Association

*Garners Beach Bingil Bay Narragon Beach Mission Beach Wongaling Beach
Carmoo South Mission Beach Tam O'Shanter Point*

The Hon Andrew Fraser
Minister for Local Government Planning and Sport
PO Box 15031
CITY EAST QLD 4002

Dear Minister,

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM PROCESS

We congratulate you and Premier Beattie for the measures announced Tuesday on the above topic. These initiatives represent a much needed and bold step that will certainly assist with necessary local government reform. There is absolutely no doubt the SSS process was stalled and little would have been achieved through this mechanism prior to the next scheduled local government elections in 2008.

Our Association also notes your intention to establish 'Local Transition Committees' ... "to ensure local knowledge and information is well considered" and we particularly approve of this proposal as well as that of the concept of 'Community Boards'.

Mission Beach Community Association finds this whole revised approach to the issue of possible Council amalgamations and boundary refreshing, and would be pleased to assist with the process in any way it can. Neatly positioned within both the existing Johnstone and Cardwell Shires and having so regularly to deal with both councils, we believe we have many insights into the regional local government situation. And hence may well be able to uniquely assist any Local Transition Committee. Indeed there are several members of our Association who are not only well versed with regional issues, but are also professionally well qualified who, we believe, would be most suitable members for any Local Transition Committee established to consider boundary and amalgamation issues in this area of north Queensland.

We expect your Department already has more than enough information on the Mission Beach boundary situation and its adverse impact on the community here. We nevertheless remain willing to provide further background and if necessary a specific briefing to the Local Government Reform Commission if so desired.

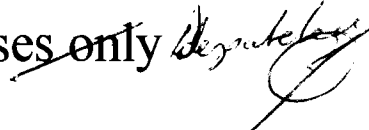
Attached for your information is a copy of our media release issued yesterday on the topic. I may be contacted on 4068 9933 or 0417 876 997.

Yours Sincerely

Allan Ogden
SECRETARY
19 Apr 07

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MEDIA RELEASE

Draft - for discussion purposes only 

MISSION BEACH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION WELCOMES ESTABLISHMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM COMMISSION

President Warwick Jull of the Mission Beach Community Association said today that the Association welcomed the announcement by the Premier, Mr Beattie and Local Government Minister Fraser of the establishment of the Queensland Local Government Reform Commission. "This process should finally see the rationalisation of the shire boundaries that unnecessarily divide the Mission Beach community between the Cardwell and Johnstone Shires" he said.

The Association has been lobbying the State Government on this matter ever since it was established and it is pleasing to see that the situation will now be resolved one way or the other through either a boundary change, or a full amalgamation of the two Councils. "This is a clear vindication of all our considerable representations to State Government given that it has obviously recognised that the situation here needs to be resolved" Warwick stated. In fact the accompanying Local Government Reform Report released concurrently with the State Government's media announcement specifically refers to the Mission Beach situation. "Indeed it is the very first example used to highlight the need for this process" Warwick said "so it is almost impossible to imagine the current situation will be allowed to remain."

"We agree totally with the Minister that the SSS process was simply not working fast enough and the two Councils involved in our situation were far from expediting the process. At the most recent Association meeting just last week the JSC Administrator acknowledged that this current SSS exercise was moving very slowly and no changes were likely to the Mission Beach Shire Boundaries before the next election. This was clearly too slow and demonstrated the need for action and intervention by the State Government" Mr Jull said.

"Special mention needs to be given to Rhonda Murdoch and her 'One Mission' committee which has worked tirelessly on this issue for over two years now" Warwick said. "Rhonda and I recently met Minister Fraser and again highlighted the community of interest within the Mission Beach area and that these were simply not being served by the current Local Government boundaries so it is pleasing to see that this 'community of interest' aspect will be a core area of consideration by the Reform Commission."

Enquiries

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