

Tabled Mr ELO
Cairns
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**Queensland
Government**

29 August 2007

Office of the
Director-General

Department of
**Local Government, Planning,
Sport and Recreation**

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I write to urge you to attend the upcoming Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation Island Councils conference in Cairns next week on 5 and 6 September 2007.

While the Department would have preferred to conduct the conference on Thursday Island, this was not possible as a suitable venue and accommodation were not available due to the coronial inquest that is currently underway.

I also acknowledge the Island Coordinating Council's (ICC) kind offer to hold the conference on St Pauls instead. As you appreciate, there will be a large number of Council and Government delegates (over 50 people, in total) at the conference, and as a consequence holding it in St Pauls is not a viable option.

This conference provides valuable opportunity for Island Councils to discuss important transitional issues, such as the future land tenure system and the appropriate structures to house enterprises. These issues are to be resolved soon, as Government is committed to holding the election for the new Torres Strait Island Regional Council on 15 March 2008.

Additionally, I would like to offer the services of Departmental officers to attend the next meeting of the ICC, as I recognise the importance of further consultation on the proposed legislative changes that will bring about the new regional council.

Therefore, in support of the Island Councils, I have approved that the Department will cover the travel and accommodation costs of two representatives from each council and the ICC to attend the conference in Cairns.

It would be greatly appreciated if you could confirm your attendance at the conference as soon as possible. Officers from the Department will be contacting you shortly to make the necessary arrangements.

Yours sincerely


Michael Kinnane ESM FAIM
Director-General

cc: Council Clerk

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