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Environmental Protection Agency

Incorporating the
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service

28 May 2007

Mr Robert Needham
Chairperson
Crime and Misconduct Commission
GPO Box 3123
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Mr Needham

CMC Inquiry into Policing in Indigenous Communities

Thank you for your letter of 19 April 2007 providing the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with the opportunity to make a submission to the Inquiry on this matter.

The EPA are very supportive of the CMC conducting this Inquiry, particularly as the Agency has a staff presence in, or near to, a number of remote communities and employs more than 65 Indigenous staff within the Agency. The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS), a part of the EPA, has a long history of working with police in remote indigenous communities to provide for a safe community. Collaboration has been particularly effective on Cape York in relation to wildlife management.

The EPA response to the terms of the Inquiry is limited to issues that have direct relevance to the operations of this Agency. We would like to provide comment on Question D of the issues paper - *How can the community help the police to deliver policing services to the community?*

There are opportunities for EPA to work collaboratively with the Queensland Police Service (QPS) to provide a supervised work program to build capacity and skills in land management or wildlife management activities. This may be an effective option for individuals working under community service orders, workplace rehabilitation or early-intervention programs. These supervised work programs would be negotiated on a case-by-case basis, relevant to availability of appropriate work locations and activities.

The EPA is proud to work with the QPS to provide safer and more peaceful communities in these remote areas and will assist in the implementation of practical recommendations arising from the Inquiry as required.

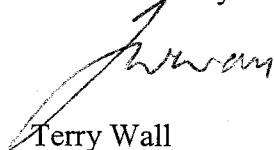
I am also in receipt of your letter dated 15 May 2007 addressed to me as Champion of the Mossman Gorge community.

The Shared Responsibility Agreement between the Mossman Gorge community and the Australian and Queensland Governments, funds employment of a Business Manager to assist in developing commercial opportunities associated with the tourism industry. In an area that receives more than 1 million tourists annually, the community is working together to identify business opportunities that will be followed by skills training to support the implementation and development of these opportunities.

I expect that programs such as this may develop long-term employment initiatives; subsequently providing a sense of community purpose and an economic framework that will contribute to police efforts for achieving safe and peaceful communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment to the Inquiry. Please do not hesitate to contact Annie Moody on (07) 3227 6437 if you require further information.

Yours sincerely



Terry Wall
Director-General

