



Deputy Premier
Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure,
Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade

Our ref: MC15/2677

Your ref: 10.4 Petitions

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18 JUN 2015

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
Corner Alice and George Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie *Neil,*

Thank you for your letter of 21 May 2015 about Petition Nos. 2354-15 and 2391-15 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly concerning the proposal from the Bundaberg Regional Council (the Council) to abolish its electoral divisions for the 2016 quadrennial local government elections.

Under the *Local Government Act 2009*, any changes to local government electoral arrangements, including the abolition of electoral divisions, must be referred to the independent Local Government Change Commission (Change Commission) for review.

On 19 February 2015, the Council applied to the Government to abolish its electoral divisions for the 2016 quadrennial local government elections.

On 2 April 2015, I referred the Council's proposal to change its electoral divisions to the Change Commission for independent review.

The Change Commission is currently reviewing the Council's proposal and has undertaken consultation with the community involving:

- calling for written submissions by the public
- convening a public hearing
- conducting a telephone poll.

The Change Commission will consider all submissions received when deciding whether the proposal to abolish the Council's electoral divisions is in the public interest. The petitioners are afforded ample opportunity through the Change Commission's process to have their views considered.

The Government will consider any recommendations of the Change Commission before deciding whether it is necessary to recommend implementing a change to the Council's electoral arrangements to the Governor in Council for implementation by Regulation.

Yours sincerely

JACKIE TRAD MP
DEPUTY PREMIER
Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure,
Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade