

14 NOV 2025

Mr Neil Laurie
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Dear Mr Laurie,

Thank you for your correspondence regarding petition 4303-25 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 14 October 2025, regarding the Flinders Community's Urban Water infrastructure.

I acknowledge the concerns raised by the 675 petitioners and the challenges faced by the community during the six consecutive weeks of 'boil water notices' last December due to *Ecoli* detection in the water delivery system.

The Queensland Government recognises the critical importance of providing safe and secure water supplies to all communities. As you are aware, local governments, as water service providers, are responsible for ensuring water quality standards are met, planning for future demand, and maintaining and replacing infrastructure as required. However, we also understand that the costs associated with these responsibilities can be significant, particularly for regional and rural councils such as Flinders Shire.

To support councils in meeting these challenges, the Queensland Government has established several grant programs, including the Works for Queensland program and the Local Government Grants and Subsidies program. I note that Flinders Shire Council has successfully secured nearly \$2 million from these programs to date. Additionally, the Residential Activation Fund will soon open its second round of applications, which may provide further opportunities to support the council's water infrastructure needs in Hughenden.

Furthermore, I encourage the petitioners to work with the Flinders Shire Council to explore opportunities through the CopperString Project, as announced by the Honourable David Janetzki MP, Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership on 10 October 2025. This initiative being led by Queensland Treasury as part of the Energy Roadmap includes an expanded \$50 million community benefits fund, which will prioritise water and sewerage infrastructure in Hughenden and other council-led initiatives.

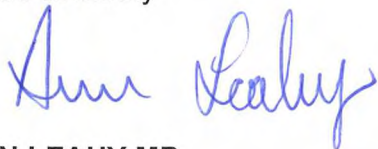
I understand Mayor Kate Peddle and Flinders Shire Council is currently assessing and costing its water supply infrastructure needs. The Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers will continue to work closely with the council to support these assessments and identify suitable funding options.

The Queensland Government remains committed to supporting regional communities like Flinders Shire in delivering essential services and infrastructure. I encourage council to continue engaging with DLGWV to ensure all available funding opportunities are explored.

I would like to thank the petitioners for raising this matter with me and I trust this information is of assistance.

If you have any questions, please contact my Chief of Staff, Mr Angus McCaffrey, on 0407 073 631 or email Angus.McCaffrey@ministerial.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ann Leahy', with a stylized, cursive script.

ANN LEAHY MP
Minister for Local Government and Water
Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers