



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

Our ref: MC16/4762

Level 12 Executive Building
100 George Street
PO Box 15009 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7100
Email deputy.premier@ministerial.qld.gov.au

17 NOV 2016

ABN 90 856 020 239

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie *Neil,*

Thank you for your letter of 3 November 2016 regarding Petition Numbers 2658-16 and 2624-16 lodged with the Legislative Assembly on 1 November 2016, requesting the realignment of the boundary between the Gladstone Regional Council (GRC) and the Bundaberg Regional Council (BRC) to effectively relocate land parcels in and around Baffle Creek into the BRC.

The *Local Government Act 2009* (the Act) provides the legislative framework for the making of local government boundary changes and also establishes the Local Government Change Commission (Change Commission), which is an independent body established under the Act to undertake reviews into changes to local government boundaries.

The Act also prescribes that only the Minister responsible for Local Government may refer a request for a boundary change to the Change Commission for assessment, which in turn may make a determination and may make recommendations on the referred matters to the Governor in Council for implementation.

The Queensland Government's policy for significant changes to local government boundaries requires each of the following criteria to be met before a referral to the Change Commission is considered:

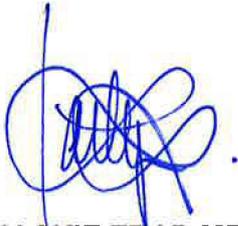
- a request from the local communities affected by the proposed change
- resolutions supporting the proposed change from the affected local governments, in this case, BRC and GRC
- assessments demonstrating the future financial sustainability of both the proposed new local government areas, including an agreement on the transfer of assets, liabilities and the impacts on existing employees of the councils concerned if the proposal was to proceed.

Additionally, the Queensland Government would only implement a recommendation of the Change Commission after a successful referendum of all residents affected by the proposed change.

While I acknowledge the signatories' efforts in demonstrating their support for the requested change, the above criteria need to be met before the changes requested by the petitioners to BRC and GRC boundaries can be considered by the government.

If you require any further information, I encourage you to contact Mr Max Barrie, Director, Program Implementation and Review in the Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning on 3452 6704 or by email at max.barrie@dilgp.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



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