



Minister for Local Government,  
Minister for Racing and  
Minister for Multicultural Affairs

Our ref: MC19/5516

Your ref: A498772

6 NOV 2019

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

*Dear Neil*

Thank you for your letter of 23 October 2019 about Petition No. 3206-19 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 22 October 2019 regarding the Redland City Council and its alleged failure to provide urban infrastructure on Russell, Karragarra, Lamb and Macleay Islands to a standard provided in other urban areas.

While the *Local Government Act 2009* (the Act) establishes the legal framework for how Local Governments determine their annual budgets, including the levying of rates and proposed expenditure on infrastructure, the Act also affords Councils considerable autonomy in determining their budgets. This recognises that individual Councils are best placed to determine the services and facilities to be delivered to their communities and the revenue required to ensure such delivery meets the needs and expectations of their ratepayers. There are limited powers for the State to intervene or direct any Local Government in such operational matters.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to strengthening transparency, integrity and accountability in Local Governments throughout Queensland. One of the key reforms currently being considered by the Government is to require Councils to consult with the community about their budgets prior to adoption of their budgets each year. This would provide an opportunity for the community to let their Council know what services and infrastructure needs are important to them.

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

Yours sincerely



**STIRLING HINCHLIFFE MP**  
**Minister for Local Government,**  
**Minister for Racing and**  
**Minister for Multicultural Affairs**