



The Hon. Cameron Dick MP
Minister for State Development, Manufacturing,
Infrastructure and Planning

Our ref: D18/280016

27 NOV 2018

Mr Neil Laurie
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Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 22 November 2018 regarding e-petition 3020-18: Applications for incinerators within city limits in Queensland cities. I understand the petitioners are concerned about waste incinerators within Queensland and in particular, about a proposal within the Ipswich City Council local government area.

I note the petitioners' request to reject a current proposed waste incinerator facility in Ipswich and any further facilities within Queensland's cities.

The Queensland Government is committed to initiatives to divert waste from landfill and revolutionise Queensland's recycling, resource recovery and biofuels industries. Such initiatives include the Resource Recovery Industry Development Program and a waste disposal levy announced on 20 March 2018 by the Premier and Minister for Trade, and the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts.

These strategies set the direction for waste management in Queensland and provide clarity and certainty for investment and commercial planning. It will allow Queensland to establish a diverse and sustainable waste management industry that delivers long-term value to our environment, new jobs for our communities and confidence to invest in Queensland. The Queensland Government is fully committed to delivering a strategic, robust and effective resource recovery and waste management program.

It is important to note that incinerating waste alone is inconsistent with this program and any proposal would only be considered where it reduces waste and provides a benefit, such as generating energy from waste to create electricity.

REMONDIS Australia Pty Ltd has expressed an interest in establishing an energy to waste facility within the council area. Any proposal would require community consultation and would need to meet stringent environmental standards. This would involve any operator demonstrating that their facility would not create the adverse impacts raised by the petitioners.

The Queensland Government supports the recycling, resource recovery and biofuels industries. I do appreciate the importance of balancing community and environmental considerations with these important industries; and that our planning policies are reflective of current best practice in achieving the required balance.

I note the petitioners seek to ensure that adverse environmental impacts are not created by a waste incinerator facility. I can confirm that through a local planning scheme, local governments make provisions for where waste facilities may be appropriately located. The Queensland Government is committed to addressing the issue of our growing landfill problem, and to building new, job-creating industries in the process. We are also mindful of the legitimate concerns of the community about how that process is executed and will work with local councils to ensure that public amenity is a high priority in considering prospective projects.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cameron Dick', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

CAMERON DICK MP
Minister for State Development, Manufacturing,
Infrastructure and Planning