



Warren Pitt MP
Member for Mulgrave



**Minister for Main Roads and
Local Government**

MC07.8621

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Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for providing me with a copy of the wording of petition no. 933-07 regarding local government reform.

The Government's commitment to implementing local government boundary reform remains steadfast. Queensland is Australia's fastest growing State and all Queenslanders need a contemporary and relevant structure and system of local government to take us forward into the future.

Councils are already well progressed on the transition to new arrangements. A Sunshine Coast Regional Council Local Transition Committee has been established and an interim chief executive officer has been appointed to help lead existing councils to the new arrangements.

I assure you the process for determining reform has been open and transparent with the best outcome for the Sunshine Coast region duly considered.

The Government established the Local Government Reform Commission (the Commission) to make recommendations for boundary changes through an independent and legitimate process. State and Federal boundaries are similarly determined by an independent process, and are not subject to referenda.

Key to this process was a public consultation, inviting all Queenslanders to provide the Commission with their individual views on local government reform in their region. The Commission received 47,267 submissions, including 3,796 suggestions that contained specific issues for consideration.

The Commission gave consideration to the 817 suggestions it received in relation to the Sunshine Coast. However it found the significant level of projected population growth on the Sunshine Coast requires a local government that can deliver quality regional strategic planning, robust financial performance combined with sound governance, efficient and effective service provision, efficient and cost effective asset acquisition and management, and infrastructure planning, financing, construction and management that recognises the diversity of the region and the aspirations of the various communities.

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The Commission found the predicted population growth of the Sunshine Coast region is best managed by a coordinated regional local government. Maroochy Shire, Caloundra City and Noosa Shire Councils share a number of cross-border interests including economies, tourism opportunities and initiatives, infrastructure and water catchments.

The Government has accepted all of the boundary change recommendations of the Commission. These were implemented through the passing of the *Local Government Reform Implementation Act 2007* on Friday 10 August 2007.

Local government reform is about building a stronger, more financially viable system of local government throughout Queensland, which takes into account the way communities live, work and interact in the modern era.

It is envisaged that new councils will have a greater ability to place more emphasis on frontline services rather than administration, meaning more people working in jobs which deliver local services and infrastructure to the community.

Yours sincerely

Warren Pitt MP
Minister for Main Roads and Local Government