



Warren Pitt MP
Member for Mulgrave



**Minister for Main Roads and
Local Government**

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MC07.9052

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 petitions number 969-07 lodged with the Legislative Assembly of Queensland 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.

The Local Government Reform Commission (the Commission) carefully considered the town of Yarraman in recommending the Toowoomba Regional Council. It found that Rosalie Shire, including Yarraman, was better grouped with Toowoomba Regional Council to achieve optimised regional planning capability within the region, and to provide a structure to effectively address ongoing growth and planning issues in Toowoomba City and surrounding areas.

There is also specific mention in the Commission's report noting that the township of Yarraman may have a stronger community of interest with the South Burnett Regional Council.

However, removing Yarraman from the Toowoomba Regional Council and incorporating it within the South Burnett Regional Council would have required splitting the boundaries of the existing Rosalie Shire Council. The Commission concluded that this was not the most appropriate decision at that time.

The Commission recognised that this issue may require further consideration in the future. The Commission recommended that following the March 2008 local government election, consideration should be given by the relevant local governments to examine this matter and refer it to the Electoral Commission of Queensland to be formally reviewed through the 'reviewable local government matters' section of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

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I trust this information is of assistance to you. Should you require any further information in relation to this matter, please contact Mr Leigh Spencer, Senior Policy Advisor, of my office on telephone number 322 78820.

Yours sincerely

Warren Pitt MP
Minister for Main Roads and Local Government