



Premier of Queensland

For reply please quote: *ES/AT – TF/13/24918 – DOC/13/205805*

19 NOV 2013

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Dear Mr Laurie

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Neil", written over the name "Mr Laurie".

Thank you for your letter of 5 November 2013 enclosing petition No. 2101-13 about certain electoral matters, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 31 October 2013.

The petitioners have requested the implementation in Queensland of what are known as 'recall elections'. Recall provisions are not generally part of the Westminster system, although I note that the Canadian province of British Columbia does have such a mechanism and they have been considered in the United Kingdom but have not been implemented. Recall provisions are more commonly found in certain states of the United States of America where, unlike the Westminster system, their constitutional system is based on individual office holders, such as governors or city mayors.

To ensure Queensland's electoral system meets high standards of integrity and accountability with fair and effective electoral laws, earlier this year, the Government released a discussion paper and sought the views of Queenslanders about a range of electoral reform matters. As part of this consultation process, over 250 submissions were received, however, none raised the issue of recall elections.

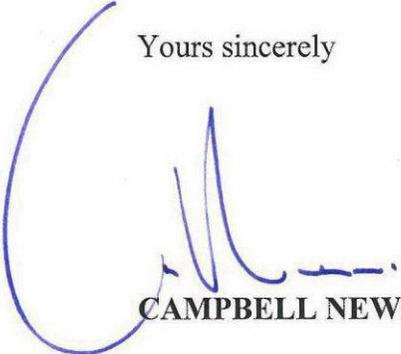
In any event, the Government does not support the implementation of recall elections in Queensland. Under our system, voters get to decide who will represent them in the Parliament by casting a vote at general elections. The Government has no intention to alter this system.

I do believe that the trust between a Member of Parliament (MP) and his or her constituents is very important though, and MPs should regularly engage with their constituents about matters that are coming before the Parliament for consideration. Ultimately, voters will make a judgement at the next state election about how their MP has performed during the term, and whether their MP remains as being the best qualified person to represent them in the Parliament.

While the Government does not support the request made in petition No. 2101-13, I appreciate that the petitioners have exercised their right to participate in the democratic process by providing their particular thoughts to the Parliament.

Again thank you for forwarding this petition to me. I hope this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



CAMPBELL NEWMAN