



Hon Phil Reeves MP
Member for Mansfield

31 AUG 2011



Queensland
Government

Minister for Child Safety
and Minister for Sport

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

Dear Mr ^{Neil}Laurie

I refer to your letter of 4 August 2011 concerning petitions 1684-11 and 1729-11 lodged by Mr David Gibson MP, Member for Gympie regarding the review of the Mt Gravatt Showgrounds Act 1988.

In my role of Minister for Sport, I have introduced a Bill into the Queensland Parliament to amend the *Mount Gravatt Showgrounds Act 1988* to ensure a strong and positive future for the showgrounds. I am committed to a positive and bright future for this great community facility.

The current legislation is essentially unchanged since its commencement some twenty-three years ago and is in need of an update to better reflect the society we live in.

The Mount Gravatt Showgrounds is an iconic facility and I am proud to have such a wonderful asset to enjoy in my own backyard.

Among the positive changes that are now before the Queensland Parliament is a measure to guarantee the inclusion of women in the running of the grounds which currently does not exist.

The Bligh Government has a strong policy of ensuring women are represented on management boards. The amendments to the *Mount Gravatt Showgrounds Act 1988* will ensure gender equality is enshrined in legislation. We live in a progressive and vibrant society and it is important to me that the board of trustees is reflective of our community.

Despite recent media reports claiming otherwise, we are maintaining the status quo in terms of representation of the Council, Show Society and community representatives appointed by the Government on the Board.

I am also pleased to advise that under these amendments, the Trust will nominate at least two members for consideration as chairperson and the Minister of the day will select the chair from these nominations.

I am disappointed at the scaremongering that has been ongoing regarding these amendments and I can assure you that many of the allegations that have been made in the media have been false and misleading.

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I remain committed to the future of the Mt Gravatt Showgrounds and will continue to work hard to deliver the best possible outcomes for our community.

The Bill and Explanatory Notes can be obtained at <http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-assembly/bills-and-legislation/Bills-before-the-House>.

I thank the petitioners for taking the time to make me aware of their concerns.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil Reeves". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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