



Warren Pitt MP
Member for Mulgrave



**Minister for Main Roads and
Local Government**

MC08.852

- 3 MAR 2008

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. 1001-08 lodged with the Legislative Assembly of Queensland regarding local government reform in Kilkivan Shire Council.

On 17 April 2007 the former Premier, the Honourable Peter Beattie MP announced the state-wide local government reform.

The State Government established the Local Government Reform Commission (the Commission) to provide recommendations on the most appropriate system of local government for Queensland.

The Commission's role was to recommend the name, class, boundary and electoral arrangements for each local government. The core areas of consideration were:

- redrawing Queensland's local government boundaries, to provide a robust, efficient and sustainable local government system for Queensland;
- grouping 'communities of interest' together in one council area to achieve consistency and synergy for all residents in the region;
- determining the most appropriate internal make-up of each new council specifically, the number of councillors needed, whether the council will be 'divided' or 'undivided' and the most appropriate number of divisions if applicable; and
- naming new councils.

During their deliberations the Commission offered the opportunity for local governments, individuals, organisations and community groups to have their say on changes to local government in Queensland. This was promoted through a State-wide newspaper advertising campaign from 28 April to 5 May 2007. Interested parties were able to provide their views in writing to the Commission by 25 May 2007. The commission received 47,267 submissions, including 3,796 suggestions contained specific issues for consideration.

The Commission provided its recommendations on the new local governments to the State Government in August 2007. The Commission's recommendations included the amalgamation of Kilkivan and Cooloola Shire Councils and Division 3 of Tiaro Shire Council to form the Gympie Regional Council.

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The Commission gave consideration to the 74 suggestions received in relation to the proposed Gympie Regional Council.

Kilkivan Shire Council, in its suggestion to the Commission states its preference to remain as a stand-alone local government. However, if it is to be amalgamated, it indicated a preference to amalgamate with Cooloola Shire Council rather than with any of the local governments in the South Burnett Region.

On 27 July 2007, the Queensland Government endorsed the boundary change recommendations of the Commission. The *Local Government Reform Implementation Act 2007* and subsequent regulations have established the new arrangements and provide for the transition from existing councils to the new arrangements.

On 15 March 2008 the new arrangements to provide a stronger, more efficient local government system will be in place. The new arrangement will give local governments a greater ability to deliver services and infrastructure to all Queensland communities.

Yours sincerely

Warren Pitt MP
Minister for Main Roads and Local Government