



Hon. Robert Swarten MP
Member for Rockhampton

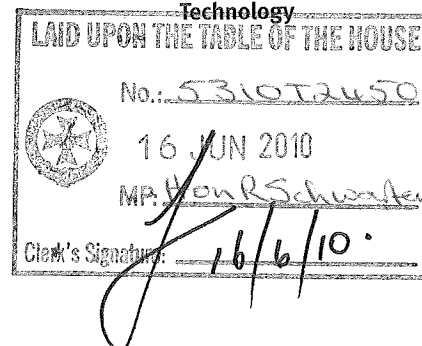


**Minister for Public Works and
Information and Communication
Technology**

Ref: CAB DPW1756/10

15 JUN 2010

Mr N Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000



Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to your letter of 19 May 2010 regarding petition No. 1400-10 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly on behalf of Mr Tim Nichols MP, Member for Clayfield, regarding the redeployment of Queensland Government employees from the Brisbane Central Business District to Ipswich.

The in-principle decision to relocate certain business functions of three departments (the Department of Communities; the Department of Public Works; and the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation) and four water entities (SEQwater, WaterSecure, LinkWater, SEQWater Grid Manager) to Ipswich is an outcome of the Queensland Government's office accommodation decentralisation strategy (the Strategy).

The Strategy forms part of the Queensland Government's commitment to the development of the Western Corridor and the investment and development of infrastructure to support population growth in the south-east corner of the State.

Factors including client needs and priorities, service delivery modes and associated technologies, employee demographic data and experiences in other jurisdictions are considered in identifying government functions suitable for decentralisation.

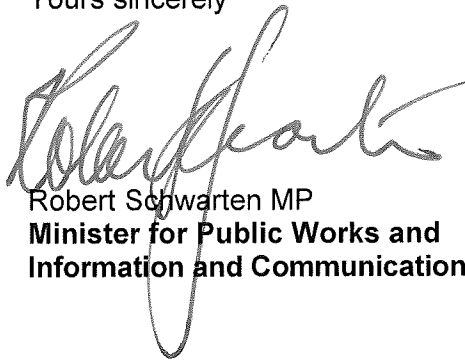
Business relocation planning for Ipswich includes measures that support employees in making this transition. In developing these measures, employees and relevant unions will be progressively informed and involved in matters that are of mutual interest. To assist in achieving this outcome, a Workforce Decentralisation Working Party, involving relevant agencies and public sector unions, is adopting a consultative approach to addressing employee concerns through the development of appropriate employment principles and practices.

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As the petition correctly points out, it is important to ensure that the principles espoused in the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention 156 are recognised. The case outlined in the petition is an example of specific employee circumstances that will be supported by individual case management by individual agencies to ensure that such needs are fully addressed. Flexible work arrangements, many of which are available under existing industrial instruments and policies, such as employee transfer and flexible hours spreads, will be considered in assisting employees in balancing family responsibilities.

The physical transition of agency roles and associated employees will not commence until late 2013. This timeframe will provide ample opportunity to finalise all aspects involved in the relocation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Robert Swarten', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Robert Swarten MP
**Minister for Public Works and
Information and Communication Technology**