

15 SEP 2010

10/40828
LA/10/2504

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

**Minister for Local Government
and Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander Partnerships**

LAID UPON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE

No. 5310T 3001

17 SEP 2010

MP: _____

Clerk's Signature: _____

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 19 August 2010 concerning petition No. 1510-10 for the dissolution of Fraser Coast Regional Council.

In relation to the intent of the petition, I acknowledge that residents may disagree with a Council when an unpopular decision is made. However, Queensland's Local Governments are autonomous bodies charged with taking independent action on a wide range of matters necessary for ensuring the good rule and government of their areas.

As the Minister for Local Government, I have limited powers under the *Local Government Act 2009* to direct any Council in respect of the many decisions they make. In addition, I have powers to dissolve a Council under the Act only in prescribed circumstances.

Before considering the use of such powers, I am obligated to consider sufficient evidence of ongoing systemic failure of the Council, which indicate the Council is incapable of performing its responsibilities. The petition presented does not contain evidence that would give rise to me considering the use of my powers as Minister.

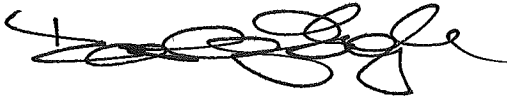
As the petitioners are aware, Councils, indeed all levels of Government are facing significant challenges in providing and maintaining the infrastructure and services required to accommodate the population growth that Queensland is experiencing. For the Local Government sector, this means having to look at all of their revenue sources, which include rates, and ensure the Council has an appropriate financing regime in place which provides a fair and equitable contribution by all ratepayers.

Councils are also progressing the changes experienced as a result of recent Local Government reforms in Queensland. The benefits from this reform are only now beginning to show results and I commend Councils on the many and varying initiatives that they have taken to improve their efficiencies.

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Should you require any further information in relation to this matter, please contact Mr Lachlan McKenzie, Policy Advisor of my office on 3227 8819.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Desley Boyle', with a stylized, cursive script.

Desley Boyle MP
Minister for Local Government and
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
Member for Cairns