



Hon Stephen Robertson MP
Member for Stretton



**Queensland
Government**

**Minister for Natural Resources,
Mines and Energy and
Minister for Trade**

Ref CTS 22060/10

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to your letter of 25 November 2010 enclosing a copy of Petition No. 1567-10 lodged in the Queensland Legislative Assembly and I respond to the matters below.

In an open letter to the Council, the Premier, the Honourable Anna Bligh MP, stated that there was nothing at a State level to stop Townsville from reverting to the previous pricing arrangement. As has long been the case, the Council is solely responsible for setting water and sewerage charges.

The Council has announced that it will review its water and sewerage pricing arrangements for 2011/12. I strongly encourage the Council to conduct this review as a matter of urgency and consult with the community. As the Premier has stated, there nothing at a State level to prevent the Council returning to the previous pricing arrangement.

In relation to an investigation into the management of the Council, this matter does not fall within my portfolio responsibilities. This is a matter for the Minister for Local Government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, and I will refer the petitioners' request to my colleague, the Honourable Desley Boyle MP, for her attention.

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Should you have any further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Judith Jensen, Director, Water Legislation, Policy and Pricing of the Department of Environment and Resource Management on telephone 3330 6108.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'S. Robertson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

STEPHEN ROBERTSON MP