



Hon David Crisafulli MP
Minister for Local Government,
Community Recovery and Resilience

Our ref: MC14/2818

Your ref: 10.4 Petitions

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27 August 2014

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 6 August 2014 about petition 2246-14 received by the Legislative Assembly.

I acknowledge the request by the petitioners to change Gladstone Regional Council from an undivided to divided local government.

For the petitioners' information, the *Local Government Act 2009* (the Act) provides the legislative framework for the making of local government changes and also establishes the Local Government Change Commission (Change Commission). The Change Commission is responsible for the review of any local government changes including changes to internal electoral boundaries that I, as the responsible Minister, refer to the Change Commission.

If I receive any requests for changes to local government boundaries or changes to its divisional representation, I require a number of issues and interests to be addressed, including relevant consultation with the local government concerned and its community on the proposed changes.

The provisions of the legislation require the Change Commission to assess whether the proposed local government change is in the public interest taking into account community interests, financial sustainability and the efficient and effective use of resources. During the assessment process, the Change Commission may also conduct public hearings to validate the views of the public about the proposed changes.

Please be assured, under the Act and regardless of whether a local government is divided or undivided, all councillors have the responsibility to represent the current and future interest of residents for the whole local government area.

At this time, I am not prepared to refer the petitioners' request for an internal boundary review of Gladstone Regional Council to the Change Commission for assessment.

However, I realise this matter is very important to the petitioners, and advise they can raise their concerns on representation directly with the Mayor, Councillor Gail Sellers on (07) 4976 6903 or at mayor@gladstonerc.qld.gov.au.

If you require any further information, please contact Ms Jennie O'Connor, Acting Regional Director, Southern Region on (07) 3452 6772 or jennie.o'connor@dlgcr.qld.gov.au, who will be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David', followed by a series of stylized, overlapping horizontal strokes.

David Crisafulli MP
Minister for Local Government,
Community Recovery and Resilience