



Honourable Deb Frecklington MP  
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Our ref: 572305/10;7499263

Your ref: 4258-25

19 SEP 2025

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to e-Petition 4258-25 tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 26 August 2025.

I note the petitioners seek the introduction of citizen-initiated referenda so that the people can have their government do what the people want by calling for referenda to be initiated. The petition notes that some other jurisdictions allow for citizen-initiated referenda.

The e-Petition 4258-25 is similar in nature to Petition 4052-24 which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 28 November 2024, and to which the Premier and Minister for Veterans responded on 19 December 2024.

As outlined in that response, the system of government in Queensland is that of a representative democracy. Under this system, Queenslanders have the right to elect the candidate they believe will best represent their interests in the Queensland Parliament and voting is compulsory.

The Queensland Parliament holds the authority to make legislation for the peace, welfare, and effective governance of the State. Rooted in the Westminster system, Queensland's parliamentary framework relies on majority vote to enact laws. The Government remains committed to upholding these fundamental principles of our democratic system.

Implementing citizen-initiated referenda could lead to unnecessary disruptions and may divert the government of the day from its core responsibilities. Furthermore, citizen-initiated referenda have the potential to require significant resources for coordination and would impose additional financial and logistical burdens on the community.

The Government values hearing the perspectives of Queenslanders on any issue they wish to raise, including suggestions or feedback on proposed legislation. Queenslanders have several avenues to share their views with the Government, such as:

- contacting the minister responsible for introducing the legislation directly;
- discussing their concerns with their local Member of Parliament;
- submitting a formal petition to Parliament;
- contributing a written submission to the Parliamentary Committee reviewing a Bill as part of its inquiry process; and
- campaigning to be elected as a local representative.

The Government does not support the introduction of citizen-initiated referenda as proposed in the petition. However, I welcome the petitioners' interest in the functioning of Queensland's parliamentary democracy and recognise their right to provide views to the Government through the Legislative Assembly.

Yours sincerely



**DEB FRECKLINGTON MP**

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice  
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