

1 Petitions and Petitioners - work sheet

Some petitions presented to Queensland Parliament

School Bus Safety

The government has an obligation to protect the youngest and most vulnerable members of our society. School bus safety has been neglected and children's lives are at risk on a daily basis. Seat belts have been compulsory in cars for almost 40 years, it should be the case for school buses.... Your petitioners therefore request the house to..... fit all Queensland school buses with seat belts and no longer permit standing on buses.

(Tabled by The Clerk of the Parliament, 30 May 2012)

Gold Coast Beaches

Gold Coast beaches are the spine of the Queensland tourism industry, luring millions of visitors each year. Wild storms and king tides have severely eroded beaches....Council says it will cost \$30m to repair. Your petitioners therefore request the house to urge the State Government to pledge half of the \$30m to make the beaches fully operational again. (Petition tabled by the Clerk of the Queensland Parliament, August 6 2013)

Stricter Laws Governing Sentencing for Cruelty to Animals

The petition of the residents of the State of Queensland draws to the attention of the House the cruelty to many domestic and native animals....Your petitioners therefore request to the house to have stricter laws governing the sentencing of culprits, found guilty of cruelty to animals. Stronger sentencing is required.

(Tabled by Vicky Darling MP, 10 May 2011)

Juvenile Crime

...There is growing concern regarding juvenile criminal activities. Your petitioners therefore request to the House to place a "Street Curfew" on all juveniles between the ages of 10 and 16 between the times of 11pm and 5am unless accompanied by an adult/parent/guardian. By doing so, this would hopefully stop the number of juveniles roaming the suburban streets and involving themselves in criminal activity.....Juveniles who are repeat offenders must receive "Longer Sentencing" as the shorter sentencing is clearly not working. (Petition still open- closing date 9 September 2013)

Ban on Lightweight Plastic Bags in Queensland

...Australians use approximately 4 billion lightweight plastic bags every year...Plastic refuse is a major threat to our land, waterways and ocean environments...At least 77 species of marine wildlife found in Australian waters are affected by marine litter...Your petitioners therefore request the House to introduce legislation for putting a ban on single use light weight plastic bags at retail points of sale in Queensland by the end of 2012.

(Tabled by Liz Cunningham MP, 29 November 2012)

Honour Mal Meninga with a Statue

Queensland Maroons have achieved eight straight State of Origin series wins in a row under the leadership of Mal Meninga. Your petitioners therefore request the House to acknowledge Mal Meninga's leadership for many years as a rugby league coach, captain and player, through the dedication of a statue of a statue of Mal Meninga at Suncorp Stadium (Lang Park), the home of rugby league. (Petition still open- closes on 11 October 2013)

In your group

Discuss each petition and then use the following questions to write about one of the petitions which interests you.

- Why do you think the people wrote the petition?
- Do you think they belong to a special community group?
- If so, name it.
- Would you support the petition?
- Do you think the Parliament should do what they asked? Write the reason for your opinion.

Draw up a chart with two columns, one for Petitions and one for the person who sponsors the petition (may be an MP or the Clerk of the Parliament). Write the name of each petition in one column and the name of the representative who presented the petition to the Parliament in the other.

Petitions	Sponsor

Choose an issue of your own and write a petition. Have another group choose a sponsor, and role-play presenting your petition to the representative.