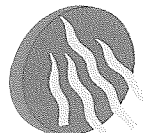




Hon Kerry Shine MP
Member for Toowoomba North



Queensland
Government

In reply please quote: 512531/1, J/08/06707

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
and Minister Assisting the Premier
in Western Queensland

29 SEP 2008

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



Dear Mr Laurie *Neil*

Thank you for your letter dated 29 August 2009 enclosing a copy of petition number 1106-08 seeking to bring the township of Curra within the Gympie Magistrates Court boundary.

I am aware that this petition is a response to local residents' concerns about the need to transport deceased persons out of the locality for coronial autopsy. This need arises not because of Curra's current location within the Maryborough Magistrates Court boundary, but because of the location of appropriately qualified medical personnel who perform coronial autopsies.

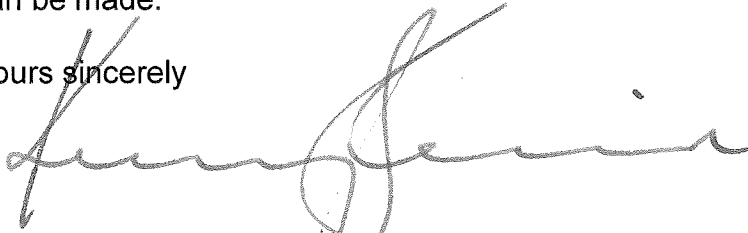
The extent of autopsy ordered by a coroner will depend on the circumstances of each individual death. Internal autopsies can only be performed by a forensic pathologist or an appropriately credentialed Government Medical Officer. This arrangement ensures that coronial investigations are informed by high quality autopsy reports.

Even if Curra were located within the Gympie Magistrates Court boundary, there is no Government Medical Officer credentialed to undertake an internal autopsy within the Gympie district, as the local Government Medical Officer is currently credentialed to perform external examinations only. All internal autopsies ordered by the Gympie Magistrate are performed by the Queensland Health forensic pathologist in Nambour or alternatively, by the Queensland Health forensic pathologists at the John Tonge Centre in Brisbane. Internal autopsies ordered by the Maryborough Magistrate are performed by Government Medical Officers in Maryborough and Hervey Bay.

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I wish to acknowledge the efforts of local coroners, police officers who assist the coroner's investigation and the medical personnel who perform coronial autopsies to endeavour to meet bereaved families' needs to have their loved one's body returned to them as soon as possible so funeral arrangements can be made.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kerry Shine', written in a cursive style.

Hon Kerry Shine MP
**Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
and Minister Assisting the Premier in Western Queensland**