



The Hon Jarrod Bleijie MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice

In reply please quote: 2482741

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16 MAY 2014

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

Dear Mr Laurie

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Neil Laurie".

Thank you for your letter dated 7 May 2014 regarding Petition No. 2180-13, presented to the Queensland Legislative Assembly, petitioning for electoral reform to enhance the sovereignty of the people and strategic government in Queensland.

The Government is considering the issue of extending and fixing the term of the Legislative Assembly as part of its review of Queensland's electoral system. However, potentially implementing a process to test the electorate's support of an elected member mid-term (the proposed process) is not currently under consideration.

I understand the frustration and disappointment voters may feel when they believe their interests are not being properly represented by their elected member. However, this issue must be considered in the context of its implications for our system of government as a whole.

The proposed process could create unnecessary instability and would have the potential to distract the existing Government from its ordinary activities. As the petitioners acknowledge, it takes an extended period of time to implement programs for the improvement of an electorate and the State as a whole. A government is sometimes required to make decisions that may be unpopular in the short term but are viewed as necessary in the longer term.

It is important to consider that the results of the proposed process could be affected by the changing demographics of the population of an electorate, particularly in marginal seats which could be affected by a relatively slight swing in voting patterns, rather than an electorate's disaffection with an elected member. The high cost to the community of having to conduct additional by-elections that may be required as a result of the proposed process is also an issue that requires consideration.

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For these reasons, the Government believes a general election is the appropriate mechanism for the electorate to express their judgment on the performance of their elected member.

I trust this information is of assistance and thank you for bringing the concerns of the petitioners to my attention.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke, positioned above the printed name and title.

JARROD BLEIJIE MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice