



Premier of Queensland  
Minister for Trade

For reply please quote: CAPS/AT – TF/21/3885 – DOC/21/38815

24 MAR 2021

Mr Neil Laurie  
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Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition 3442-20 about religious observances at the start of business in the Queensland Parliament and at council meetings, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 23 February 2021.

In relation to the Queensland Parliament, as you are aware, prayers form part of the Order of Business for each parliamentary sitting day as outlined in the Parliament's sessional orders.

The removal of prayers from the Order of Business as requested by petition 3442-20 would require an amendment to sessional orders. As such, this is a matter for the Speaker, the Honourable Curtis Pitt MP, as Chair of the Committee of the Legislative Assembly, to consider in the first instance.

In relation to religious observances by councils, these are matters for each local government to consider rather than the Queensland Parliament or Queensland Government. As such, the petitioners may wish to consider raising their views on this matter directly with local governments.

I hope this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

**ANNASTACIA PALASZCZUK MP  
PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND  
MINISTER FOR TRADE**