



Hon Paul Lucas MP



Queensland  
Government

Deputy Premier and Attorney-General  
Minister for Local Government and  
Special Minister of State

Our ref: MC11/857

Your ref: Petitions

17 MAR 2011

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

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to your representations to the former Minister for Local Government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, the Honourable Desley Boyle MP, concerning petition number 1484-10 about implementing divisions for the City of Townsville before the 2012 local government quadrennial elections. As you are aware, I am now Deputy Premier and Attorney-General, Minister for Local Government and Special Minister of State, and am responding as required under the Standing Orders.

As you would be aware, on 28 February 2011, the Government tabled its response to the Parliamentary Law, Justice and Safety Committee's Report No. 78 *A new Local Government Electoral Act: Review of the local government electoral system (excluding BCC)*, including responses to the Committee's recommendations in relation to divisions.

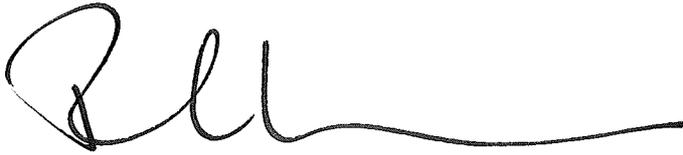
The Government's response will inform the development of the new Local Government Electoral Bill and I have asked that the Department of Local Government and Planning also take the petition, together with two earlier petitions to the Parliament relating to the same proposal, into consideration during the drafting of that Bill.

In the near future, I will be considering the referral of a number of potential changes to Council arrangements to the independent Change Commissioner ahead of the next quadrennial local government elections. This follows a submission process to the Department of Local Government and Planning that closed earlier this year. In referring potential changes to the Change Commission, I too will take into consideration the petition and earlier petitions made to Parliament that advocate for the Townsville City Council to go to the next quadrennial local government elections on the basis of divisions.

Level 12 Executive Building  
100 George Street Brisbane 4000  
GPO Box 15009 City East  
Queensland 4002 Australia  
**Telephone +61 7 3224 4600**  
**Facsimile +61 7 3224 4781**  
**Email deputypremier@ministerial.qld.gov.au**  
ABN 65 959 415 158

I trust this information is of assistance. If you require any further information, please contact Mr Ross Alcorn, Director, Local Government Legislative Reform, Office of Local Government, Department of Local Government and Planning, on 3237 1887 who will be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Lucas', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**PAUL LUCAS MP**  
**Deputy Premier and Attorney-General,**  
**Minister for Local Government**  
**and Special Minister of State**