



Hon Ann Leahy MP
Minister for Local Government and Water and
Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers

Our ref: CTS13736/25 \ WR25/19225

24 JUL 2025

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
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Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your correspondence regarding petition 4245-25 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 24 June 2025 regarding the dismissal of Townsville City Council.

The petitioners have requested the Parliament of Queensland to call upon me as the Minister for Local Government, Water and Volunteers to:

- Dissolve the Townsville City Council (the council)
- Appoint an interim independent administrator
- Commission and independent forensic audit of council contracts and fiscal management since 2015
- Suspend the executive leadership team during this period
- Establish a transparent recruitment process for new executives, informed by the outcomes of cultural review and whistleblower reports; and
- Schedule new council elections following the audit or within 12 months.

While the *Local Government Act 2009* (the Act) allows for the dismissal of a democratically elected local government, it is only possible in a very specific set of circumstances. At this time, it is not considered that the threshold for dismissal as outlined in the relevant provisions of the Act has been met. The petition has not put before me, as Minister, sufficient evidence to persuade me otherwise.

The Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers continues to support and monitor the council and will keep me informed of any issues which may need my attention.

I would like to thank the petitioners for raising this matter with me and I trust this information is of assistance.

If you have any questions, please contact my Chief of Staff, Mr Angus McCaffrey, on 0407 073 631 or email Angus.McCaffrey@ministerial.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

ANN LEAHY MP
Minister for Local Government and Water
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