



Deputy Premier
Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure,
Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade

Our ref: MC15/2435

Your ref: 10.4 Petitions

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3 JUN 2015

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Neil,

Thank you for your letter of 6 May 2015 about Petition No. 2381-15 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly.

I acknowledge the issues raised by the petitioners seeking to de-amalgamate the Fraser Coast Regional Council and establish two new local government areas representing the areas of Maryborough and Hervey Bay respectively.

For the petitioners' information, the *Local Government Act 2009* (the Act) provides the legislative framework for the making of local government changes, and also establishes the Local Government Change Commission (Change Commission). The Change Commission is responsible for the review of any local government change, including changes to local government boundaries. As the Minister for Local Government, I can refer matters to the Change Commission for assessment.

The Government's policy position for significant changes to local government boundaries, including de-amalgamation of an area, requires each of the following criteria to be met before a referral to the Change Commission is considered:

- a request from the local communities affected by the proposed change
- resolutions supporting the proposed change from the affected local government(s), in this case, the Fraser Coast Regional Council
- assessments demonstrating the future financial sustainability of both the proposed new local government areas, including an agreement on the transfer of assets, liabilities and the impacts on existing Fraser Coast Regional Council employees if the proposal was to proceed.

In addition, the Government would only implement a recommendation of the Change Commission after a successful referendum of all residents affected by the proposed change.

While I acknowledge the signatories' efforts in demonstrating their support for the proposed change, the above criteria need to be met before the changes to the Fraser Coast Regional Council's boundaries can be referred to the Change Commission.

However, I realise this matter is very important to the petitioners and advise they can raise their proposal directly with the Mayor, Councillor Gerard O'Connell on 0438 231 868 or by email at gerard.oconnell@frasercoast.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



JACKIE TRAD MP
DEPUTY PREMIER
Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure,
Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade