



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

Our ref: WR24/37071

13 DEC 2024

1 William Street
Brisbane QLD 4000
GPO Box 826
Brisbane QLD 4001
Telephone +617 3719 4720
Email lgwv@ministerial.qld.gov.au
ABN 51 242 471 577

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

TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter regarding petition 4175-24 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 28 November 2024 about electronic petitions in local councils.

I appreciate the petitioners' support for all Queenslanders to be able to engage with their local government. Councillors have the responsibility to represent the current and future interests of the residents of their local government area, and petitions are one valuable way councillors can understand, consider and respond to these interests.

In Queensland, local governments have primary responsibility and autonomy for ensuring good governance of their local government areas, and the *Local Government Act 2009* (the Act) provides that local governments have an obligation to perform their responsibilities and take actions in a way that is consistent with the local government principles under the Act. These principles include:

- transparent and effective processes
- decision making in the public interest
- democratic representation, social inclusion and meaningful community engagement.

While the local government principles require community engagement, the legislation does not explicitly state what community engagement looks like. Local governments are best placed to know their community and the best approaches to take to achieve effective and meaningful engagement.

Although there is no requirement for Queensland's local governments to accept electronic petitions, local governments have the flexibility to accept electronic petitions, and I note that some local governments in Queensland do explicitly allow for electronic petitions and provide procedures or guidance for residents to submit electronic petitions.

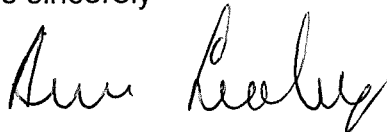
I would encourage any resident interested in making an electronic petition to their local government to check their local government website or to contact their local government for information regarding making petitions.

Residents can find web addresses and contact details of their local governments on the Queensland government's local government website, as follows:
www.localgovernment.qld.gov.au/for-the-community/local-government-directory/search-the-local-government-directory.

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 Mr Angus McCaffrey, A/Chief of Staff on 0424 683 186 or Angus.McCaffrey@ministerial.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ann Leahy', written in a cursive style.

ANN LEAHY MP

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