



Warren Pitt MP
Member for Mulgrave



**Minister for Main Roads and
Local Government**

MC08.2198

24 JUL 2008

Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for providing me with a copy of petition number 1057-08 tabled in the Legislative Assembly of Queensland regarding the building of a footbridge and weir on the Leichhardt riverbed between Isa and Grace Streets, Mt Isa.

I have responded directly to the principal petitioner, Ms Mary Butler, and have attached a copy of my response for your information.

Yours sincerely

Warren Pitt MP
Minister for Main Roads and Local Government

Att.

Level 18 41 George Street Brisbane
PO Box 15031 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3227 8819
Facsimile +61 7 3221 9964
Website www.qld.gov.au



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24 JUL 2008

Ms Mary Butler
51 Opal Street
MOUNT ISA QLD 4825

Dear Ms Butler

The Clerk of the Parliament forwarded me a copy of the wording of your petition, tabled in the Legislative Assembly of Queensland on 3 June 2008, regarding an application seeking Mount Isa City Council “adhere to the decision made by the previous Council to accept the \$3 million to build the permanent feature of the foot bridge and weir in anticipation of the celebration of the last 150 years”.

As you are aware, Mount Isa City Council resolved to amend plans for the Leichardt River Community and Recreation Precinct (Riverfront Project) that was granted funding under the Queensland’s 150th Legacy Infrastructure Program (Q150LIP). This amendment did not include the construction of a foot bridge and weir. More recently however, Council resolved not to proceed with the Riverfront Project and instead sought my approval, as Minister for Main Roads and Local Government, for a Family Recreation Park to be Council’s Q150LIP Project.

On 23 June 2008 I wrote to the Council advising that its proposal for a Family Recreation Park was approved conditional upon Council submitting a detailed Project Plan for endorsement by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Recreation. Additionally, I strongly urged Council to consider alternative locations for the park and in particular encouraged Council to consult with Ms Betty Kiernan MP, Member for Mount Isa, on suitable alternative sites.

The *Local Government Act 1993* vests local governments with autonomous responsibility for ensuring the good rule and government of their areas with minimum intervention by the State. There are no legislative powers for State Government to intervene in the decisions made by Council. It is expected decisions made by the Council will consider the needs and interests of the community.

If you are dissatisfied with Council’s response to your concerns, there is a legislative requirement that all local governments in Queensland implement a complaints management process to improve their accountability and resolve complaints, including those about administrative actions of the local government. In accordance with this process, you are entitled to make a formal complaint in writing to the Chief Executive Officer of Council. Council must appoint a complaints officer to conduct an investigation into the matter. Upon making a decision in relation to the complaint, the complaints officer is required to give the local government and the affected persons notice of, and the reasons for, the decision.

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If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of Council's investigation under its general complaints process, you may refer your concerns to the Ombudsman as his role is to investigate and review administrative actions taken by Queensland's State agencies and local governments. Complaints to the Ombudsman can be made in writing to GPO Box 3314, Brisbane, QLD, 4001, in person or by using the online complaint form which can be found at www.ombudsman.qld.gov.au. The Ombudsman's Office can also be contacted on telephone number 3005 7000 or toll free (outside Brisbane) 1800 068 908.

I trust this information is of assistance. Should you require any further information in relation to this matter, please contact Mr Leigh Spencer, Senior Policy Advisor of my office on telephone number 3227 8820.

Yours sincerely



Warren Pitt MP
Minister for Main Roads and Local Government