



**Warren Pitt MP**  
Member for Mulgrave



**Queensland  
Government**

MC08.3630

**Minister for Main Roads and  
Local Government**

- 3 NOV 2008

Mr Neil Laurie  
Clerk of the Parliament  
[TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for providing me with a copy of the wording of petition no. 1125-08 regarding a request to take all reasonable steps to halt all works on the Agnes Water Sewage and Desalination Scheme by placing a freeze on the \$27 million grant of public funds to the Gladstone Regional Council.

I have responded directly to the principal petitioner (Ms Margaret Behal) and a copy of my reply is attached 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](http://www.qld.gov.au)**



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Ms Margaret Behal  
Principal Petitioner  
59 Bills Road  
AGNES WATER QLD 4677



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Government**

**Minister for Main Roads and  
Local Government**

Dear Ms Behal

The Clerk of the Parliament has forwarded to me a copy of the wording of your petition, lodged with the Legislative Assembly of Queensland on 11 September 2008 regarding a request to take steps to halt works on the Agnes Water Sewerage and Desalination Scheme by placing a freeze on the \$27 million grant of public funds to Gladstone Regional Council.

Since November 2006, State Government has been working with the former Miriam Vale Shire Council and more recently Gladstone Regional Council to ensure that the water and sewerage infrastructure for Agnes Water and the town of 1770 provides the best possible solution for the community.

As the sewerage treatment and desalination plants are Council projects, Council is responsible for all planning, technical and engineering assessments and financial modelling in relation to the proposal. Council is also responsible for all community consultation and obtaining all necessary regulatory approvals, including environmental approvals for all aspects of the proposal.

I am advised the proposed desalination plant has obtained the necessary State and Commonwealth approvals. These approvals include conditions to ensure that any impacts from the construction and operation of the desalination plant are minimised.

In relation to your request to place a freeze on State Government funding, this is a matter for the Council to consider. The Council was eligible for funding under the program guidelines and following a detailed technical assessment of the project, its application for subsidy was approved. The Council has the right to refuse the funding offer and investigate alternative options to supply water services to Agnes Water and the Town of 1770.

The Queensland Government has put in place 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 these circumstances, if you have not already done so, you are entitled to make a formal complaint in writing to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Gladstone Regional Council. On receipt of your complaint the CEO 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 you may then refer your concerns to the Ombudsman. 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 person, by writing to GPO Box 3314, Brisbane QLD 4001, in person, or by using the online complaint form found at [www.ombudsman.qld.gov.au](http://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 to you.

Yours sincerely

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

Warren Pitt MP  
**Minister for Main Roads and Local Government**