



Warren Pitt MP
Member for Mulgrave



**Queensland
Government**

**Minister for Main Roads and
Local Government**

MC08.4342

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for providing me with a copy of the wording of petition number 1175-08, lodged with the Queensland Legislative Assembly, to advise the House about rate rises for landowners on the Moreton Bay Islands and the mainland of the Redland City Council area.

In Queensland, local governments are charged with taking independent action on a wide range of matters and councils are elected by the community to provide facilities and services to meet the specific needs of their communities. Since local circumstances vary across the State, it is entirely up to each council to decide how much revenue is required to be raised through the rating process in order to provide the facilities and services which their communities require. It therefore, is up to each council to determine an appropriate rating regime which provides a fair and equitable contribution by all its ratepayers to meet the total revenue requirements.

The *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act) provides that a local government must make a general rate or differential general rate for each financial year, based on the unimproved value of land effective for the current financial year. The actual rate is decided each year as part of each independent local government's budget process.

One of the features of the rating provisions in the Act is that councils are provided with considerable autonomy to address the impact of valuation changes on rates, and to determine how the rate burden is spread across the community. Councils have a range of rating options available, including minimum general rates, the averaging of valuations, special and separate rates and charges, rate capping and differential general rating.

All individual ratepayer enquiries should therefore be directed to the Council on telephone number 3829 8999, or by writing to the Chief Executive Officer, Redland City Council, PO Box 21, Cleveland Qld 4163.

Yours sincerely

Warren Pitt MP
Minister for Main Roads and Local Government

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