



Hon. Robert Swarten MP
Member for Rockhampton



**Queensland
Government**

**Minister for Public Works
and Information and Communication
Technology**

Ref: DPW01817/10

18 JUN 2010

Mr N Laurie
The Clerk of Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to the petitions numbered 1386-10, 1431-10 and 1462-10 lodged with the Queensland Legislative Assembly by Mr Howard Hobbs MP, Member for Warrego, regarding the cutbacks of State government services from the growing Western Downs communities and particularly the closure of the Miles Queensland Government Agent Program (QGAP) office.

I wish to assure you that the Queensland Government has no plans to close the QGAP office in Miles. I am aware that the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation, which incorporates Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries, intend to close their operation in Miles on 30 June 2010. While that department has operated the Miles QGAP office, QGAP is able to be transferred from one operator to another.

I am pleased to advise that Smart Service Queensland, Department of Public Works which coordinates QGAP, is working with a number of Queensland Government departments towards this option, with general agreement for the retention of the Miles QGAP office.

The Queensland Government understands the need for rural and remote communities to have access to a range of government services and information. This is a reason for the establishment and continued success of the QGAP since 1992.

I trust this information addresses your enquiry. If I can be of assistance with other matters within my portfolio, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours sincerely

Robert Swarten MP
**Minister for Public Works and
Information and Communication Technology**

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