



The Hon Jarrod Bleijie MP  
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice

In reply please quote: 548423/1, 2045097

Your ref: 10.4 Petitions

28 NOV 2012

Mr Neil Laurie  
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Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 1 November 2012 enclosing petition number 2001-12. This petition, presented by Mr Sam Cox MP, Member for Thuringowa, on behalf of the principal petitioner Naomi Van der Starre, was received by the House on 31 October 2012. It draws the attention of the House to *'neighbours surveillance camera recording in other people's private back yards'* and requests that the House review all laws on *'what is personal surveillance or spying on your neighbour.'*

The Newman Government's priorities are to deliver on its election commitments and six month action plan for the period July to December 2012. There are currently no plans to review laws on personal surveillance or spying on neighbours. I note however that section 48A(3) of the *Invasion of Privacy Act 1971* provides an offence if a person is found in a house or yard of another person without a reasonable excuse. The offence has a maximum penalty of 20 penalty units (currently \$2200), or one year's imprisonment.

In addition, Dispute Resolution Centres provide a way of settling disputes, including disputes between neighbours. Trained mediators help parties to a dispute to reach an agreement. This process is successful in resolving a wide range of disputes speedily and inexpensively. For more information, the Dispute Resolution Centre for North Queensland (Townsville) can be contacted by phone on 4760 9866 or by fax on 4760 9850. The email address for the Centre is [drc.nq@justice.qld.gov.au](mailto:drc.nq@justice.qld.gov.au).

I trust this information is of assistance and thank you for bringing the concerns of the petitioners to my attention.

Yours sincerely

JARROD BLEIJIE MP  
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice