

Please quote: 32659/mb23/L&JP

Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Neil

Thank you for your letter of 18 June 2003 enclosing a copy of a petition from the Bayside Residents Against Toxic Sites Inc, received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly relating to a proposed immigration detention centre at Pinkenba.

I have carefully noted the contents of the petition and have taken the liberty of forwarding a copy of it to the Hon Philip Ruddock MP, Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs.

The decision regarding location of these facilities is a matter for the Commonwealth Government. However, I have previously expressed my concern about the lack of community consultation in relation to the selection of the preferred site at Pinkenba with both members of that community and with Minister Ruddock.

In response, the Commonwealth Government has advised that they intend undertaking further consultation with the local community at Pinkenba and also with a number of local councils that have expressed an interest in the facility being located in their area.

Please be assured that I, and my Government, will continue to work to balance the interests of all communities affected by this issue.

I want to thank the petitioners for bringing their concerns to the attention of the House.

Yours sincerely

PETER BEATTIE MP
PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR TRADE

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THE CLERK OF THE PARLIAMENT

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Your Ref: Our Ref: 3875

18 June 2003

Hon Peter Beattie MP
Premier
PO Box 185
BRISBANE ALBERT ST QLD 4002

Dear Premier

Petition received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly

It is a requirement of Sessional Orders of the Queensland Legislative Assembly that I forward a copy of the wording of every petition received by the House to the minister responsible for the subject matter of the petition.

A recent internal audit of petitions received by the House, forwarded to ministers and ministerial responses, has revealed that a petition received by the House on 31 October 2002 relating to a proposed immigration detention centre at Pinkenba was not forwarded to you as required.

This was the only omission uncovered by the audit and the omission came about because after the petition was tabled it was discovered that the petition tabled was a photocopy. The member who tabled the petition was requested to try and obtain the original prior to further processing. The original was never obtained. In any event, given that the petition was presented I was required to forward the tabled petition to you and the omission should not have occurred. I have put in place new procedures to ensure that such an omission does not occur again.

I enclose a copy of the wording of the petition, tabled paper number 3875. Under Sessional Orders, you may forward a response ("ministerial response") to the Clerk and it shall be tabled.

Additionally, under Sessional Orders, I am required to publish responses on the Parliamentary website and, therefore, would appreciate an electronic version of your response. Please email the electronic version to TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au. In this instance, unless you object, I shall also publish a copy of this letter with the response so that the petitioners will note that any delay in the response was not occasioned by your office.

If the subject matter does not fall within your portfolio responsibilities then please either (a) return it to the Clerk's Office or (b) forward it to the relevant minister.

Yours sincerely

Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament

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