



Hon David Crisafulli MP
Minister for Local Government,
Community Recovery and Resilience

Our ref: MC14/1705

Your ref: 10.4 Petitions

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- 6 JUN 2014

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Neil

Thank you for your letter of 7 May 2014 about petition 2252-14 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly.

You would appreciate that the proposed dismissal of Councillor Bill Shannon, Mayor of the Cassowary Coast Regional Council, is a very serious matter. Section 122 of the *Local Government Act 2009* states that the dismissal of an elected councillor requires that I reasonably believe the councillor concerned has seriously or continuously breached the local government principles or that the councillor is incapable of performing his or her responsibilities.

At this time, there is no evidence on which I might reasonably form such an opinion, and consequently, no justification for the dismissal of Councillor Shannon. However, I would be open to the consideration of such evidence, should the petitioners who have brought this matter to the notice of the Parliament possess it.

Alternatively, I would encourage petitioners to engage with Councillor Shannon so as to inform and influence his decision making. Should they be unsuccessful in this regard, or otherwise have reason to continue to be unhappy with Councillor Shannon's performance, they will have the opportunity to have a definitive say on the matter in the 2016 Local Government Elections.

If you require any further information, please contact Ms Jo Stephenson, Director, Northern Region on (07) 4799 7378 or jo.stephenson@dlgcr.qld.gov.au, who will be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Crisafulli". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

David Crisafulli MP
Minister for Local Government,
Community Recovery and Resilience