



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

Our ref: MC14/2128

Your ref: 10.4 Petitions

24 JUN 2014

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
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Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 5 June 2014 about petition 2273-14 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly.

You would appreciate that the request for Whitsunday Regional Council to be dismissed and an Administrator appointed is a very serious matter. Section 123 of the *Local Government Act 2009* provides that if I reasonably believe a local government has seriously or continuously breached the local government principles, or is incapable of performing its responsibilities, I may recommend to the Governor in Council that the local government be dissolved.

The Whitsunday Regional Council faces challenging financial circumstances as a consequence of the decisions and actions of the previous Council. The current Council is taking the difficult but necessary steps to address those issues. Whether or not these decisions are the right ones will be a matter for the community to judge at the ballot box in at the next local government elections.

Recently, I met with the Mayor and councillors to discuss the issues and remind them of their responsibility to the community. I will continue to monitor the situation and provide assistance to the Whitsunday Council.

If you require any further information, please contact Ms Jo Stephenson, Regional Director, Northern Region on (07) 4758 3420 or jo.stephenson@dlgcrr.qld.gov.au, who will be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely

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