



Minister for Local Government and
Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships

Our ref: MC17/1312

20 APR 2017

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
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Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 23 March 2017 about Petition No. 2689-17 lodged with the Legislative Assembly on 21 March 2017, expressing concerns regarding the performance of the Fraser Coast Regional Council (the council) and requesting the council to remove the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) effective immediately.

In 2016, the state government appointed advisors to the council for a period of three months. On 31 October 2016, the Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (the department) produced a report which outlined the concerns that have arisen and the department's views regarding the council's compliance with its statutory responsibilities and the general functioning of the council. This report was tabled in Parliament on 2 November 2016. The report concluded that at that time there were no grounds for further state intervention. It is my view that this remains the case. However, the department continues to monitor the council's performance. Support for the council will continue to be available through the department in the form of training, capacity building and advice.

I note the petitioners' request sought state government intervention seeking the removal of the council's CEO effective immediately. The tenure of a council CEO is a matter entirely within the discretion of the elected councillors, rather than the state government.

However, I am advised Ms Lisa Desmond's contract as the council's CEO was terminated by the council effective 6 February 2017. Mr Ray Burton has been appointed as the interim CEO whilst the council undertakes a recruitment process for a new CEO. It is my understanding this is being progressed currently.

If the petitioners require further information, I encourage them to contact Ms Patricia McKay, Acting Regional Director, Local Government and Regional Services in the department on 3452 6872 or by email at patricia.mckay@dilgp.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

MARK FURNER MP
Minister for Local Government and
Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships