



The Hon Cameron Dick MP  
Minister for State Development, Manufacturing,  
Infrastructure and Planning

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Our ref: MC18/1224

19 MAR 2018.

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
Corner of Alice and George Streets  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Email: [TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Mr Laurie

Neil,

Thank you for your letter of 21 February 2018 regarding petition 2807-17: Planning law change - places of worship.

As the petitioners have correctly identified, the new planning act i.e. the *Planning Act 2016* (the Planning Act), identifies that one way ecological sustainability can be achieved is through maintaining community well-being, by conserving or enhancing places which include those of spiritual significance.

For a place of worship to be developed, an application must be made to the local government and is assessed against the local government's planning scheme. Each planning scheme in Queensland is required to advance the purpose of the Planning Act. How each planning scheme achieves this will be different as the scheme is intended to reflect the planning and development aspirations for its local community. The diversity of our communities means that each planning scheme manages development differently.

Through its planning scheme, the local government makes provisions for where places of worship may be appropriately located and sets what level of assessment will be required. The local government determines whether a development application for a place of worship requires impact assessment and public notification.

Any change to a planning scheme, including the level of assessment for a place of worship, is a matter for the local government to consider. The state's role is to establish accountable processes that local governments are to follow to change their schemes. There are community consultation requirements, and local governments are obliged to produce a report that explains how they have considered submissions made as part of the consultation process.

I note the petitioners ask that 'Social Health Impact Assessment' and safety risk screening form part of the assessment for a place of worship. Local governments can ask for additional information from an applicant to assist in assessing a development application. Again, I would direct the petitioners to their relevant local government on this matter.

It may interest the petitioners that the commencement of the Planning Act also marked significant reform to Queensland's planning system introducing increased measures for accountability and transparency. This includes the requirement for local governments to publish their reasons for approvals and refusals of development applications.

If further information is required, petitioners may contact Ms Megan Bayntun, Executive Director, Policy and Statutory Planning, in the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning on 3452 6822 or [megan.bayntun@dsdmip.qld.gov.au](mailto:megan.bayntun@dsdmip.qld.gov.au), who will be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely



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