



Minister for Local Government,
Minister for Racing and
Minister for Multicultural Affairs

Our ref: MC18/3589

Your ref: A333993

12 JUL 2018

Mr Neil Laurie
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Dear Neil

Thank you for your letter of 13 June 2018 about petition numbers 2949-18 and 2927-18 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 12 June 2018 concerning the possible dismissal of the Ipswich City Council.

I note the views of the petitioners about the Council and their request that I do not remove the Council. Petitioners may know that the current situation has raised some very serious concerns about, not only the conduct of individuals, but the Council itself. Further, the Crime and Corruption Commission's investigation of the Council is still ongoing.

On 3 May 2018, I wrote to the Council asking it to Show Cause as to why the Council should not be dismissed or suspended and the Council provided a response to that Show Cause Notice. On 20 June 2018, I issued a second Show Cause Notice 'in the public interest' to the Council as further matters of relevance had arisen since the issuing of the initial Show Cause Notice.

The Council challenged this Show Cause Notice by application to the Supreme Court. On 28 June 2018, the Supreme Court decided that it would set down a hearing for this matter on 31 July 2018.

However, the Palaszczuk Government believes having this matter challenged through the Courts will not bring stability to Ipswich residents and businesses. This issue needs to be resolved urgently to allow the Ipswich community to have certainty. As such, the Queensland Government will introduce legislation to dismiss the Council and appoint an administrator when State Parliament returns in August 2018.

The decision to put this legislation before the Parliament is not a decision I have made lightly. However, I strongly believe this is the best decision for the people of Ipswich and also for the staff at the Council.

I would like to thank the petitioners for raising this matter with me and I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

STIRLING HINCHLIFFE MP
Minister for Local Government,
Minister for Racing and
Minister for Multicultural Affairs