Our ref: MC18/5812

Your ref: A366729

1 6 OCT 2018

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 19 September 2018 about petition numbers 3012-18 and 2980-18 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 19 September 2018 requesting the House note the petitions as a vote of no confidence in Councillor Stephen Robinson of the Sunshine Coast Regional Council and to take such action as deemed appropriate.

I acknowledge the concerns of the petitioners. As the Minister for Local Government, under section 122 of the *Local Government Act 2009,* I can only recommend suspension or dismissal of a Councillor in the following circumstances:

- upon recommendation of the Local Government Remuneration and Discipline Tribunal; or
- if I reasonably believe that a Councillor has seriously or continuously breached the Local Government principles; or
- if I reasonably believe that a Councillor is incapable of performing their responsibilities; or
- if I reasonably believe it is otherwise in the public interest that a Councillor be suspended or dismissed.

Based on the information provided by the petitioners, there is insufficient evidence for me to take this very serious and significant action against Councillor Robinson at this point in time. However, I do encourage the petitioners to hold all Councillors to account in understanding the expectations of their communities. The failure by Councillors to understand the expectations and needs of their communities will be ultimately judged at the ballot box.

I would like to thank the petitioners for raising these matters 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**