



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

Our ref: MC19/1183

Your ref: A420388

13 MAR 2019

Mr Neil Laurie
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Dear Neil

Thank you for your letter of 26 February 2019 about petition number 3036-18 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 12 February 2019 concerning tree protection orders.

Both State and Local Government can be involved in the protection of trees in Queensland. The State, through legislation such as the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* regulates the clearing of vegetation to ensure, among other things, that native vegetation is conserved, land is not degraded, biodiversity and ecological processes are maintained, and land is used sustainably. The Governor in Council may make a declaration under this Act that an area is of high conservation value or is vulnerable to land degradation.

Typically, where the State does not regulate the clearing of vegetation, Local Government can regulate clearing for matters that are important to the Local Government area such as cultural heritage, visual amenity or environmental values.

Local Governments across Queensland have adopted specific vegetation management or tree protection Local Laws. At least eight Local Governments in South East Queensland including Brisbane City Council, Gold Coast City Council, Ipswich City Council and Redland City Council have Local Laws which specifically provide for protection of vegetation including trees, which are not otherwise regulated. Other Local Governments with specific Local Laws covering vegetation management or protection of trees are Bulloo Shire Council, Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council, Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council and Winton Shire Council.

In the first instance, the petitioners should approach their Local Government to understand what level of tree protection (State or Local Government) applies to the specific trees they are trying to protect. This will assist them in determining where best to focus their efforts to change legislation.

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