



The Hon Dr Anthony Lynham MP
Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy

Your refs A385092, A385920
Our refs MO/18/3159, MO/18/3164, CTS 30235/18

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letters of 31 October and 2 November 2018, forwarding for response e-petition 3021-18 and paper petition 3037-18 (the petitions), as tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 30 October 2018 and 1 November 2018 respectively.

In response to the petitions the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (the department) is committed to an appropriate mix of skills, strong regional representation, inclusion of equality and diversity principles, including the Queensland Government's gender diversity targets which call for 50 per cent of all new board appointees to Queensland Government bodies to be women; and 50 per cent representation of women on Queensland Government bodies by 2020.

The department actively encourages a process which allows for the highest quality candidates with the most appropriate mix of skills and inclusion of equality and diversity principles. The current procedures entitled "Voting procedures for category 2 water authorities when electing directors and conducting special ballots" do not allow for consideration of these matters, including the government's gender diversity targets.

On 5 September 2018, the Deputy Director-General approved consultation on a proposed change to the procedure for board appointments for a water authority, as detailed in the document entitled "Procedures for category 2 water authorities when nominating and/or electing directors, and conducting special ballots" (Proposed Procedures), in order to support the principles of skills mix and equality. On 7 September 2018, a notice was published in the government gazette notifying the public of the proposed change and invited written submissions on the proposed change.

Under the Proposed Procedures, a water authority must establish a nomination committee which is responsible for seeking and nominating suitable candidates for ministerial appointment to its board. The nomination committee must develop a recruitment process that is open, transparent, competitive, and satisfy the Minister that the proposed appointees have the expertise and qualifications necessary to undertake their roles.

To meet community expectations and to maintain strong regional representation under the proposed procedures, the nomination committee must comprise of the secretary of the board, one or two ratepayers and one local government representative. Nominated candidates will

need to continue to obtain endorsement from two ratepayers of the water authority's gazetted area.

Costs to ratepayers were taken into consideration when developing the proposed procedures and it is intended that the implementation will lead to streamlining of processes which, in turn, would lead to a reduction of costs given that election processes can be costly.

No decision has yet been made to change the procedure for appointments to boards of a water authority to encourage an appropriate mix of skills and inclusion of equality and diversity principles.

I provide you with this response for tabling pursuant to Standing Order 125(3). Any enquiries regarding this response can be referred to Mr Simon Zanatta, Chief of Staff, on telephone 3719 7360.

Yours sincerely



Dr Anthony Lynham MP
Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy.

