



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

Our ref: MC20/2794

Your ref: Petition 3304-20 A559602

12 June 2020

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Corner of Alice and George Streets
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Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 21 May 2020 regarding petition number 3304-20 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 19 May 2020 about reviewing and amending eligibility for State Government regional funding to include all islands within the Redlands Local Government Area in view of the regional challenges faced by these communities.

I note that this is a matter Councillor Karen Williams, Mayor of the Redland City Council has been advocating with the Queensland Government for some time.

I acknowledge the petitioner's concerns about areas within the Council experiencing high unemployment, and that these areas are currently ineligible from certain Government funding programs, such as the Works for Queensland (W4Q) program, which targets regional areas. The first three rounds of W4Q (2016–17, 2017–19 and 2019–21) targeted Councils outside of South East Queensland, which recognised the support the communities in these areas need to deliver maintenance and minor infrastructure projects that create, support and sustain local jobs.

I am pleased to advise that on 19 May 2020, the Honourable Anastacia Palaszczuk MP, Premier and Minister for Trade, announced the Queensland Government's Economic Recovery Strategy: Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs, which is designed to support the economic recovery across all of Queensland's communities from the COVID-19 pandemic.

This Strategy includes the \$200 million 2020-21 COVID Works for Queensland funding program which is available to all 77 Queensland Councils. The Council will receive \$2,880,000 from this program which is to be used on job creating new infrastructure, maintenance or minor works projects that are focused on essential services, economic development and community well-being outcomes. The Council will be required to deliver the projects by 30 June 2021.

If you require any further information, please contact Ms Kate Adams, Chief of Staff in my office on 3719 7560.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stirling".

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