



Premier of Queensland  
Minister for Trade

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1 William Street Brisbane  
PO Box 15185 City East  
Queensland 4002 Australia  
Telephone +61 7 3719 7000  
Email [ThePremier@premiers.qld.gov.au](mailto:ThePremier@premiers.qld.gov.au)  
Website [www.thepremier.qld.gov.au](http://www.thepremier.qld.gov.au)

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
[clerksoffice@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:clerksoffice@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 21 May 2020 enclosing petition 3317-20 which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 19 May 2020.

I acknowledge the genuine interest that the petitioners have in the integrity of democracy and the Parliament's ability to hold executive government to account.

As you are aware, despite the coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency in Queensland, the Legislative Assembly has still been sitting. Procedures and practices have been adopted as necessary to adhere to public health advice, and the normal processes of the Legislative Assembly have been taking place, such as the consideration of legislation, the asking of questions of ministers, the debate of motions moved by non-government members and the ability for members to speak to matters of their choosing.

It is the Queensland Government's intention for the Parliament to sit every month between now and October, subject to ongoing health advice.

The updated parliamentary sitting schedule released by the Acting Leader of the House on 22 May 2020 provides for the same number of meeting weeks as the number previously scheduled for 2020, before COVID-19 and its impacts upon Queensland were known. The number of sitting days for 2020 in the updated schedule for this period has only been reduced by four days.

As you are also aware, the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* was amended in April 2020 to provide the Legislative Assembly with the option to meet by electronic means during the duration of the COVID-19 emergency in Queensland, should such sittings be necessary. This option remains available.

It should also be noted that during the COVID-19 emergency, the Legislative Assembly's committees have continued with their normal accountability, scrutiny and inquiry functions, with a number of important inquiries and reports having been completed and tabled by the committees during this time. On 22 April 2020, the Legislative Assembly agreed to two motions put forward by my Government, referring COVID-19 related inquiries to committees.

The Economics and Governance Committee and the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee have respectively been tasked to inquire into and report on the Government's economic and health response to COVID-19.

Public briefings have been held by these committees with senior government officials in attendance to answer questions, while public submissions on these matters have also been called for.

These inquiries are providing additional parliamentary accountability around the actions of the Government in response to COVID-19.

Finally, the Honourable Cameron Dick MP, Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, will release the Queensland Government's COVID-19 fiscal and economic review in September 2020. This publication will adopt the same standards used for the mid-year fiscal and economic review, which is trusted by financial markets, ratings agencies and Queenslanders.

To ensure parliamentary scrutiny and accountability, the Treasurer and I will be available at that time to appear before the Economics and Governance Committee.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners and demonstrates my Government's commitment to ensuring the integrity of the Queensland Parliament.

Yours sincerely



**ANNASTACIA PALASZCZUK MP  
PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND  
MINISTER FOR TRADE**