



Premier of Queensland
Minister for Trade

For reply please quote: *CAPS/AT – TF/21/20937 – DOC/21/194870*

30 SEP 2021

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

1 William Street Brisbane
PO Box 15185 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7000
Email ThePremier@premiers.qld.gov.au
Website www.thepremier.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to Petition 3545-21 about citizen's initiated referendums which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 31 August 2021.

My Government supports Queensland's current constitutional and parliamentary system within which laws are made by the democratically elected Legislative Assembly with the assent of the Governor.

It is noted that some of Queensland's laws cannot be amended or repealed unless they have been approved by electors at a referendum, for example, the duration of terms of the Legislative Assembly. However, the number of these laws is limited, and my Government does not support a constitutional and parliamentary system that also incorporates citizen's initiated referendums as outlined in Petition 3545-21.

The petitioners may wish to note that integrity, accountability and proper consultation and parliamentary processes are key principles my Government has been following since taking office in February 2015. We believe Queenslanders have every right to voice their opinions on the issues of the day.

Bills introduced into the Legislative Assembly by my Government are routinely referred to a Parliamentary Committee for inquiry before they can be further debated. As part of their inquiries into Government Bills, committees call for public submissions, hold public hearings, question witnesses and generally gather as much information and suggestions from the public as possible on the Bill. From the information gathered, the committee will then prepare a report to the Assembly on the Bill, outlining recommendations to the Government.

My Government also regularly conducts its own public consultation processes on Bills before they are introduced and consults the public on other matters requiring a decision by the government.

The petitioning of the Parliament process, as exercised by the petitioners in this case, is another process that enables citizens to voice their opinion on issues, with Ministers required to respond about the matters raised.

Queenslanders can also voice their opinions by contacting Ministers and other members of the Legislative Assembly, government departments and other entities via correspondence, websites or on the telephone. For example, I receive thousands of items of correspondence on a broad range of issues from Queenslanders each month.

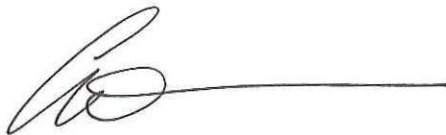
Queenslanders can also voice their opinions via the media and have the right to participate in peaceful public assemblies.

As the ultimate expression of their voice, Queenslanders vote at regular elections for their preferred candidate to represent them in their electorate in the Legislative Assembly.

I also note that Petition 3545-21 refers to the selling of State assets. The petitioners may also wish to note that my Government has never proposed the sale of any government-owned corporations and our opposition to any such sales remains resolute.

While my Government does not support the request made in this petition, I appreciate the interest the petitioners have in Queensland's parliamentary system and respect their right to provide their thoughts on these matters to the Legislative Assembly.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive 'A' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

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