



Hon Steven Miles MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for State Development, Infrastructure,
Local Government and Planning

Our ref: WR21/16345

Your ref: A690668

22 JUN 2021

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

TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 26 May 2021 regarding petition 3547-21 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 25 May 2021 about the capacity of the North Burnett Regional Council to deliver an adequate level of services and its pursuit of financial sustainability.

The Palaszczuk Government understands the difficulties councils face in the current economic climate. This includes the North Burnett Regional Council, where the council is meeting with the community about its budget and related decisions on service delivery standards.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to supporting local governments across Queensland deliver the services and infrastructure local communities need including through investments like our signature \$1 billion Works for Queensland program.

The recent 2021 State Budget also included \$70 million in funding over three years for regional councils to improve their water and sewerage systems through the sixth round of the Queensland Government's highly successful Building our Regions program.

We are also looking at ways the State might be able to provide additional support to our councils moving forward, including options for the establishment of a sustainability framework that supports councils in responding to financial sustainability challenges.

The Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning will continue with training programs aimed at improving financial management and governance.

While the State Government sets safety standards for key services such as water, wastewater and roads, the State does not set service standards for local government services. Councils are the level of government closest to their communities. They have

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a strong understanding of local priorities and community needs and that's why councils are best placed to make decisions regarding service standards.

It's important that councils make decisions that balance the need to support their communities through frontline services and infrastructure with responsible financial management. Engaging with the community about these matters, as the North Burnett Regional Council is doing, is an important part of this process and supports transparent and accountable local government.

I would like to thank the petitioners for raising this matter with me and I encourage the petitioners and wider community to continue to work with their council to implement service standards which meet the needs of the North Burnett community.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Miles'.

STEVEN MILES MP
DEPUTY PREMIER
Minister for State Development, Infrastructure,
Local Government and Planning