



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

Our ref: WR21/32893

Your ref: A776112

10 November 2021

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
TableOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 18 October 2021 regarding petition 3624-21 and 3614-21, received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 13 October 2021, about the internal decision-making processes of the North Burnett Regional Council in providing services that are relevant and represent value to the community.

The Palaszczuk Government understands the difficulties councils face in the current economic climate. This includes the North Burnett Regional Council, where council met with the community about its 2021-22 budget and related decisions on service delivery standards.

The state government is looking at ways to provide additional support to our councils, including the establishment of a sustainability framework that supports councils in responding to sustainability challenges. The 'Local Government Sustainability Framework' discussion paper can be found at www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au.

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

Additionally, \$70 million has been provided in funding 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.

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

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It is 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.

The Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning also works closely with councils, including the North Burnett Regional Council, to deliver capability building programs aimed at improving financial management and governance outcomes.

I would like to thank the petitioners for raising this matter with me and I encourage the petitioners and the 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 black ink, appearing to read 'S Miles', written in a cursive style.

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