



Warren Pitt MP

Member for Mulgrave

MC07.8379

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Mr Neil Laurie

Clerk of the Parliament

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**Queensland
Government**

**Minister for Main Roads and
Local Government**

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for providing me with a copy of the wording of petitions numbers 853-07, 909-07, 919-07 and 918-07 lodged with the Legislative Assembly of Queensland regarding local government structural reform.

In relation to petition number 853-07, on 27 July 2007 the Local Government Reform Commission (the Commission) announced its recommendations on the name, class, boundary and electoral arrangements for each new local government in Queensland. The Government gave effect to those recommendations through the *Local Government Reform Implementation Act 2007*, which became law on 10 August 2007.

The Commission did not recommend any boundary changes to Redland Shire Council and this recommendation was subsequently endorsed by the Government. Thus the petition's assertion that the residents of Redlands have a unique identity and that no change to the boundaries of Redlands Shire should occur, is a view that is shared by the Government of Queensland.

In relation to the remainder of the petitions, I can assure you that the reform of local government was indeed undertaken through a democratic process. Consultation began on local government reform with the Size, Shape and Sustainability Program in 2005. The community's responses to this process were considered by an independent Commission in making its determinations on the structure of local governments in Queensland. The independence of the Commission was a key factor in ensuring that the process was not politicised and accords with the independent processes used for determining State and Federal electoral boundaries.

Finally, the legislation enacting local government boundaries was given effect through the democratically elected Parliament of Queensland and as such was subject to the usual checks and balances that this entails.

Yours sincerely

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