
LAWFUL PETITIONS

This Factsheet is for general information purposes and is not legal advice. Important legal details have been omitted to provide a brief overview of this area of the law. If you require legal advice relating to your particular circumstances you should contact the EDO or your solicitor.

General Rules

A petition:

- Must indicate the name and address of the principal petitioner on the front page;
- Must be clearly written or printed and be free from erasures or alterations;
- Must be signed by at least one person;
- Must in English or accompanied by a true translation certified by a Member;
- Must be signed by person whose names are listed on it and no-one else except in the case of incapacity;
- Shall have signatures written upon it and not pasted or otherwise transferred to it;
- **Must have the wording of the petition on every page on which signatures appear;**
- Should not be accompanied by letters, affidavits or other documents;
- Must be respectful, decorous and temperate in language;
- From a Corporation aggregate must be under a common seal.

Form of a petition

(a) Queensland:

“PETITION”

TO: The Honourable Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland.

The petition of (a) citizens of Queensland draws to the attention of the House

or

(b) residents of the State of Queensland

or

(c) electors of the Division of

(State grievance)

Your petitioners therefore request the House to

(State action required)

Principal Petitioner: <Name and address>

(Here follows the signatures)

NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE

(b) Federal:

PETITION

TO THE HONOURABLE SPEAKER AND THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ASSEMBLED IN PARLIAMENT:

The petition of certain
(Here identify, in general terms, who the petitioners are, eg “citizens of Australia” or “residents of the State of...” or “electors of the Division of..”)

draw to the attention of the House (or “points out to the House”)

.....
(Here give the circumstances of the case)

Your petitioners therefore pray that the House (or “request the House” or “ask the House”)

.....
(Here outline the action that the House should, or should not, take)

(Signatures)

(Addresses)

(c) Local Government:

(i) Making submissions on development applications

A group of residents who wish to object to a development application can make a joint submission to their local government in the form of a petition under the *Integrated Planning Act 1997*. However the petition must meet the requirements of what is a “properly made submission”. You would need to ensure that the petition (or submission):

- is signed by each person whose name appears on it;
- states the name and address of each person who signed it;
- sets out the grounds of the submission and the facts and circumstances relied on in support of those grounds.

It may be useful to identify a chief petitioner for future correspondence.

Keep in mind that individual letters of objection have more force than a petition.

(ii) General requests to your Local Government

For general requests to your local government, you will need to check whether there is a local law policy in place where the requirements relating to petitions are set out. Some local governments will have a formal approach to petitions whereas others will have an informal approach. As a minimum, you will have to:

- address the petition to the Lord Mayor or Chief Executive Officer of the relevant Council;

- State what the petition is about and your request; and
- Include names, addresses and signatures.

Again, it is useful to identify a chief petitioner for future correspondence.

An **example** of a petition lodged with the Brisbane City Council follows:

PETITION

TO: THE RIGHT HON. JIM SOORLEY

LORD MAYOR OF BRISBANE

We, the undersigned petitioners hereby state our objection to the proposed development application upon the land at 72 XYZ Street, Paddington (Lot X on RPXYZZYX).

We request that this unique area of remnant bushland be resumed by the Brisbane City Council as a matter of priority, through the monies available from the Bushland Preservation Levy.

NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE