



The Hon Nick Staikos MP

Minister for Consumer Affairs
Minister for Local Government

Level 1, 2 Treasury Place
East Melbourne, Victoria 3002

Mr Robert McDonald
Clerk of the Legislative Council
By email: council@parliament.vic.gov.au

CMIN-251001274

Dear Mr McDonald,

Thank you for your letter and petition tabled in the Legislative Council on 14 October 2025 by the Hon Jeff Bourman, MLC, Member for Eastern Victoria.

In accordance with Standing Order 11.04(2), a response to the petition is as follows.

I understand the cost-of-living pressures many Victorians are facing and the challenges these present for individuals and families. I can advise that Victorian councils operate as an independent tier of government, with democratically elected councillors responsible for making decisions and setting priorities that reflect the needs and interests of their local communities.

Under section 71 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, councils have the power to make local laws on matters within their responsibilities. This includes decisions relating to permits for private land use. As Minister for Local Government, I do not have the authority to intervene in such matters.

The *Local Government Act 2020* expects councils to use their law-making powers to address issues and community needs within their local context. In this case, the City of Casey has advised that the permit requirements are intended to support and protect the peace, health, safety, and wellbeing of the community in response to local concerns.

I note that the City of Casey has undertaken further public consultation on their local laws in recent months to address some of the concerns raised by the petitioners. I encourage the petitioners to continue raising their concerns with the City of Casey through the appropriate forums, so their views can be considered as part of their local decision-making processes.

Sincerely,

The Hon Nick Staikos MP

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30.10.2025