



e-petitions

Information and guidelines

e-petitions

Petitioning is one of the traditional methods by which members of the public can make a formal request to the Parliament. Until 2003, petitions were only possible in paper form.

The Queensland Parliament introduced online petitioning in 2002 and these petitions submitted in electronic format are referred to as "e-petitions".

Information on e-petitions is available on the Queensland Parliament web site at - www.parliament.qld.gov.au/petitions

Through this web site you can locate e-petitions and if you wish join a current e-petition. When a Minister responds to an e-petition you will also be able to read the response on the web site.

e-petitions and paper petitions

e-petitions do not replace the paper petition process. If you wish to start a petition you can choose to circulate either a paper petition or an e-petition. As the "Principal Petitioner", you will also have the option of running both processes in order to reach the widest audience.

Who is eligible to join an e-petition?

Most people are eligible to initiate or join an e-petition. People who can petition the Queensland Parliament, as set out in the Queensland Parliament's Standing Orders include: Queensland residents; Queensland citizens; or Queensland electors (the relevant electorate will be specified on the petition). The Principal Petitioner will identify who might have an interest in, and want to support, the petition. The group of eligible petitioners will be identified on the web site.

How are e-petitions started?

Step 1: Approach a Queensland Member of Parliament (MP) or the Clerk of the Parliament to sponsor your petition.

The key difference between the paper-based and electronic process for petitions relates to how the process is started. In the case of e-petitions, you must seek the sponsorship of an MP **or the Clerk** as the first step. (Paper petitions are usually circulated for signatures prior to locating a sponsoring MP.) You may approach any MP **or the Clerk** to sponsor an e-petition, however you should approach only one MP at a time. Information on how to contact MPs is available through the Parliament's web site at - www.parliament.qld.gov.au/members or you can contact the Queensland Parliament for this information by phoning (07) 3553 6451.

Step 2: Complete an e-petition request form.

An e-petition request form is included with this brochure and is also available on the Parliament's web site. You may choose to use this form when seeking an MP **or the Clerk** to support your proposed e-petition. The form records: the precise wording of the e-petition; the eligibility criteria for persons wishing to join, eg. Queensland residents; the period the e-petition will be on the web site; the sponsoring MP's or the Clerk's details; and the Principal Petitioner's details. The MP or the Clerk may request changes before agreeing to sponsor an e-petition. You would need to fill out and sign a revised version of this form that reflects the MP's changes.

Step 3: If an MP is sponsoring the petition, then the MP then submits the signed e-petition request form to the Clerk of the Parliament.

The Clerk of the Parliament will check that it meets the requirements set out in the Standing Orders. If these requirements are satisfied, the e-petition is posted on the web site until the specified closing date.

If there is a difficulty, the Clerk may require an amendment to the e-petition before posting.

How long can an e-petition be posted on the web site?

An e-petition can be posted on the web site for a minimum period of one week and a maximum period of six months. The Principal Petitioner, together with the sponsoring MP or the Clerk, decide the length of time the e-petition will remain open for people to join.

Who will promote an e-petition?

As with paper petitions, the Principal Petitioner is responsible for raising awareness in the community about the availability of the specific e-petition. (The name and address of the Principal Petitioner will be provided on the web site.) The Queensland Parliament's role is only to facilitate the e-petitions process.

What happens after the e-petition is closed?

Once the posting period for an e-petition has closed, the e-petition will be made available in hard-copy format for presenting in Parliament. The Clerk of the Parliament will present the petition in the sponsoring MP's or the Clerk's name, at the first available opportunity.

Ministerial responses to e-petitions

Ministers must forward a response to the Clerk within 30 days after the petition is presented. If a Minister can not comply within 30 days, the Minister shall forward to the Clerk an interim response and the Minister's reasons for not complying within 30 days; and within three months forward to the Clerk a final response.

Ministerial responses to e-petitions and paper petitions are posted on the website at - <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-assembly/petitions/overview/ministerial-responses>

You will be given the option when you join an e-petition to be automatically notified by email of the ministerial response.

Conditions of Use

If you wish to join an e-petition, you will need to accept the e-petition's *Conditions of Use*, which outline: the eligibility requirements; the requirement that a person may only join an e-petition once; and the prohibition on the use of false names.

A breach of the *Conditions of Use* might amount to contempt of Parliament under the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*. Actions that are considered to be in contempt of Parliament include: presenting a forged or falsified document to the House or a committee; submitting a petition containing false, scandalous or groundless allegations; or inducing a person to sign a petition by fraud and misleading the House.

You could be fined for committing a contempt of Parliament or even imprisoned if you fail to pay such a fine. Once you accept the *Conditions of Use*, you will be provided with a random identification number. You will be required to record this number when joining an e-petition, along with your name, address (including postcode) and email address.

What about privacy?

Only the name and address of the Principal Petitioner will be made public on the web site as required by the Standing Orders. The personal details of people who join e-petitions will not be published in any form on the web site. The web site will only show a tally of the number of signatures collected. However, once presented to Parliament, the details of all petitions (including the names, addresses and email addresses of signatories) may be accessed from the Parliament's Table Office.

A Privacy Statement on the website details how your personal information will be protected.

Note. This publication is for information purposes only. Further information about the e-petitions process can be obtained from the Queensland Parliament on:

Telephone. 07 3553 6451

Facsimile. 07 3553 6454

e-petition request form



This form may be used when seeking to obtain a Member of Parliament's or Clerk of the Parliament's sponsorship of a proposed e-petition for posting on the Queensland Parliament website.

Please ensure this form is completed in full and signed prior to forwarding to the MP's or the Clerk's office.

Please tick one

MP or Clerk of the Parliament

If sponsored by a Member of Parliament, please provide the Member of Parliament's details*:

(to be completed by Principal Petitioner)

Name

Address

Postcode

Principal Petitioner's details: (to be completed by Principal Petitioner)

Note: The name and address of the Principal Petitioner will be published on the web site in accordance with the Standing Orders of the Queensland Parliament.

Name

Address

Postcode

Telephone (office hours)

Email

Proposed e-petition details: (to be completed by Principal Petitioner)

Subject

Eligibility Category (circle appropriate category below)

Queensland Citizens / Queensland Residents / Electors of

(state division)

draws to the attention of the House (state the text of grievance):

Your petitioners, therefore, request the House to (state the text of the action required):

Number of words

(word limit of 250 in total for grievance and action required)

Closing date

(posting period minimum 1 week/maximum 6 months from date of posting)

Signature

Date: / /

Note: The Clerk's office will contact you to advise of the outcome of your request.

e-petition request form



If sponsored by a Member of Parliament*:

(to be completed by the MP)

Name

Electorate

I agree to sponsor the petition overleaf

Signature

Date / /

If sponsored by the Clerk of the Parliament*:

(to be completed by the Clerk of the Parliament)

Name

I agree to sponsor the petition overleaf

Signature

Date / /

* Please scan and email the completed form to the Office of the Clerk of the Parliament:
petitions@parliament.qld.gov.au

MP's contact details are available at:
www.parliament.qld.gov.au/members/current

For petition queries please call 07 3553 6451