




Speech By
Shane Knuth

MEMBER FOR DALRYMPLE

ADJOURNMENT

Tablelands Regional Council, Deamalgamation

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (11.00 pm): I table a petition signed by 93 concerned council workers. It is addressed to the state member for Dalrymple, Shane Knuth, the state member for Cook, David Kempton, and the state member for Barron River, Michael Trout, requesting them to make representation to the government. It states—

This petition of concerned employees and wider community members of the Tablelands Regional Council draws to your attention the inadequate employment protections regulations that have recently been made by the Newman State LNP Government to facilitate the De-amalgamation of the former Mareeba Shire Council local government area from the current Tablelands Regional Council.

The Local Government (De-amalgamation Implementation) Regulation 2013 which establishes a new local government area for Mareeba fails to provide any job security or adequate employment protections to ensure that the workers and their families who are affected by these Local Government reforms are protected.

The failure by the LNP Government to ensure the regulation contains adequate employment protections immediately places both the security of local jobs and Council services to local communities at risk.

The petitioners therefore request that you as the State members for Dalrymple, Cook and Barron River immediately act in the interests of your constituents by seeking that the LNP Government make amendments to the Local Government (De-amalgamation Implementation) Regulation 2013 to adequately protect employees and services to the community.

The petitioners seek the State Government regulate to ensure that employment protections provided for workers caught up in this latest round of reforms are equitable to the protections provided by the former Queensland Local Government Workforce Framework 2008 Legislation, which protected both employees and the wider community during 2008 Local Government amalgamation process.

Tabled paper: Non-conforming petition regarding employment protections in relation to the Tablelands Regional Council deamalgamation [\[3161\]](#).

I recall the forced amalgamations. I believe that it was probably one of the greatest attacks on rural communities ever in Queensland's history from the previous Beattie government. It should never have happened and has caused tremendous hurt, hardship and division amongst communities. I am tabling this petition on behalf of workers. No-one here was impressed with what Beattie did, but he brought in protections so that those employees would not be sacked. They are asking that legislation be reintroduced to ensure that these workers can retain their jobs.