



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

24 July 2017

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

D17/21705

Mr Ross Vasta MP
Committee Chair
House of Representatives
Standing Committee on Petitions
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Vasta,

Ross,

Thank you for your letter dated 19 June 2017 inviting a submission to the Committee's inquiry into the e-petitioning system of the House of Representatives.

The New South Wales Legislative Council does not currently accept or offer a facility to lodge e-petitions. However, the Council's Procedure Committee is currently undertaking an inquiry on the merits of introducing e-petitions and the mechanisms by which they could be accepted in the Legislative Council. The committee is due to report by the last sitting day in 2017.

A number of Houses of Parliament from Australia and overseas have made a submission to the inquiry and these have been made public and are available on the committee's inquiry webpage. A number of members of the Legislative Council also made a formal submission to the inquiry, all of whom supported the acceptance of e-petitions by the Council.

I recently made a visit to the Senate and the House of Representatives during which I was able to inspect and receive a briefing on the House of Representatives e-petition system. I was impressed by what I saw and heard and I plan to table my observations at the next meeting of the Procedure Committee.

I wish your Committee well in its deliberations.

Yours sincerely,

 The Honourable John Ajaka MLC
President