Handout 14: Petitions

Petitions can be a very effective way to lobby government but petitions for state/territory and commonwealth government require specific language and format for them to be accepted. However, petitions for local council do not require the same rules and can therefore be prepared in a more informal manner. It is important to gather the maximum number of completed petitions and sending them along with any other submission, policy response along with a covering letter that seeks a response. Language used for state/territory and commonwealth government is as follows:

To The Honourable Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives in Parliament.

The petition of certain citizens of Australia draws to the attention of the House that ...(about your issues).

Your petitioners therefore request the House…..(your demands).

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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Please return to (state your agency’s name and contact details).