



2 February 2012

## KERRY SHINE MP

State Member for Toowoomba North

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### Free forum to prepare Toowoomba locals for future neighbourhood disputes

Member for Toowoomba North Kerry Shine has announced a free community information session will be held at Picnic Point on Tuesday, 7 February to assist Toowoomba residents understand Queensland's new neighbourhood dispute laws.

"The session will provide property owners and tenants with useful information about their rights and responsibilities regarding trees and dividing fences under the new *Neighbourhood Disputes Act 2011*," Mr Shine said.

"Neighbourhood disputes are one of the most common types of dispute and have the potential to impact on people's property, finances, emotional and physical well-being.

"The new Act was developed to clarify who was responsible for building and maintaining dividing fences and who was responsible for ensuring trees and branches did not impose on someone else's property.

"It replaces outdated dividing fence laws and was developed following an extensive, state-wide review of neighbourhood disputes.

"It also introduces new rules governing trees and fences while providing more clarity for residents about their legal rights and responsibilities."

Attorney General Paul Lucas said the new Act encouraged people to try to resolve matters themselves with a range of options for dealing with neighbourhood disputes available.

"They can get help to talk through the issues with their neighbours through a Dispute Resolution Centre, or they can obtain legal advice by using community legal services or a private solicitor," Mr Lucas said.

"Disputes that can't be resolved through mediation can be considered by the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

"The Bligh Government has announced a series of information sessions across Queensland to inform residents of their rights and I am pleased Toowoomba locals will benefit."

The session will be held on Tuesday, 7 February 2012 at Picnic Point, 164 Tourist Road, Toowoomba from 10 am. Tea and coffee will be provided.

If you would like to attend the session please register at [www.neighbourhooddisputes.qld.gov.au](http://www.neighbourhooddisputes.qld.gov.au)

More information about the new laws, including steps to help resolve a dispute, can be found at [www.neighbourhooddisputes.qld.gov.au](http://www.neighbourhooddisputes.qld.gov.au) or further questions about the laws can be directed to 13GQOV.

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