

Your reference
Our reference
Contact Officer Wayne Wendt
Telephone 3810 6201



Ipswich City Council

45 Roderick St
PO Box 191
Ipswich QLD 4305
Australia

Tel (07) 3810 6666
Fax (07) 3810 6731
Email council@ipswich.qld.gov.au
Web www.ipswich.qld.gov.au

Committee Secretary
Economics and Governance Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

1 August 2018

Dear Minister

On the 30 July 2018, the public hearings into the Draft Local Government (Dissolution of Ipswich City Council) Bill 2018 were held in Ipswich and Brisbane.

In the course of these hearings at Ipswich, questions were directed towards various Ipswich City Council Councillors in regards to measures undertaken to improve governance within the Council and how they would be able to implement further governance reforms more effectively than an Administrator.

Given the complex nature of these questions, the responses provided during the hearing were of a limited nature and I would like to provide the committee with the following additional information.

- In 2016, prior to any charges being laid, the Council identified the need to develop a Fraud and Corruption Control Plan. This plan was designed to establish an appropriate strategic framework that would define management and staff responsibilities, and ensure the implementation of robust practices for the effective detection, investigation and prevention of fraud and corruption within the organisation. Due to the commencement of the CCC charges around that time, the Plan was only partially implemented. However, the intention was for this to be revised and implemented fully by Councillors once there was certainty that Council could proceed forward without interference from the Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC).
- In 2017 the Council identified that best practice should require an expansion of the charter for the Internal Audit Branch to include risk management activities. This was subsequently supported by all Councillors and appropriate improvements have resulted.
- In early July 2018, Council approved the recruitment of additional resources for the Council's Internal Audit Branch and Corporate Governance Branch to further enhance the

organisation's internal governance functions. The approval of these additional resources demonstrates Council's commitment to best practice governance.

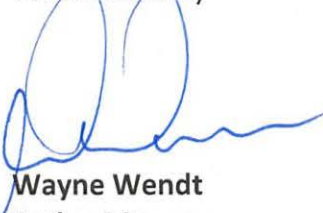
- The Councillors have an effective working knowledge of the majority of the Council's policies and procedures and, as such, are best placed to conduct a review of these in light of the circumstances of the last 12 months.
- Perhaps, most importantly, the Councillors are aware of the community needs and interests in relation to these policies. This knowledge enables the Councillors to foresee any possible unintended negative consequences that policy and procedural changes may have on our community. This knowledge has been accumulated over many decades of combined service by the Councillors and is an essential component of local government.
- An Administrator would not have this essential local knowledge which could result in perverse outcomes and unintended negative consequences for the people of Ipswich.
- Council and Councillors are committed to achieving and exceeding best practice with a commitment to ongoing training and development for Councillors and officers at all levels of the organisation.

The Ipswich City Councillors are committed to improving the governance of the Council as demonstrated through instigating and supporting previous governance reforms.

We are committed to continuous improvement in this area of our business and respectfully ask that we are given the opportunity to continue to demonstrate this commitment, rather than being dismissed.

I look forward to this submission being considered by the Economics and Governance Committee.

Yours sincerely



Wayne Wendt
Acting Mayor
City of Ipswich