

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Economics and Governance Committee](#)
Subject: Local Government[Dissolution of ICC]Bill 2018
Date: Friday, 20 July 2018 3:45:29 PM

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

Dear Sir,

Thank you for the invitation to comment on this bill. In the short time available I have used email, so I hope that is acceptable. Thank you also for specifically asking the Queensland Local Government Reform Alliance for its comments. It has been a long battle to have the voice of ratepayers heard on local government matters, and I sincerely thank the Committee for giving QLGRA that recognition.

May I comment as follows:

- there is no doubt that ICC must go. The embedded corruption has been well proven and the public interest test applied diligently. The issue however is whether this legislation can be used [or misused] as a precedent. Sacking an elected council and denying the right of appeal to the courts are serious measures. Although it is overwhelmingly supported in this case, if it is used in less serious cases there will be complaints in the press and by others of political motivation. For example if a Labor Minister sacks a council with known LNP leanings then the Minister will be judged harshly; rightly or wrongly.
- To avoid charges of political interference and manipulation I suggest that for the future the Minister should be obliged to consult with a number of the following, and their opinions published: The Crime and Corruption Commission, Office of the Independent Assessor, Auditor General, Director General of Local Government, Electoral Commissioner, Opposition spokesperson on Local Government, the appropriate Ratepayers Association as identified by QLGRA.
- The proposed legislation envisages sacking councillors only. In my experience, unless the CEO is himself the whistle blower, he or she is as much corrupted as the councillors. There is little point in sacking all the councillors while keeping the CEO who oversaw the bad practises but did nothing.

Yours faithfully,

Kenneth E Park

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