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23 July 2018

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

Via email: egc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Secretary

Re: Local Government (Dissolution of Ipswich City Council) Bill 2018

The Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC) welcomes the opportunity to make this submission to the Economics and Governance Committee (the Committee) on the *Local Government (Dissolution of Ipswich City Council) Bill 2018* (the Bill).

This submission is a brief submission which is directed at the policy objectives of the Bill and the reasons for them. As I have previously indicated, the decision to remove the Council and the legal process for this to occur is a matter for the Government, not the CCC.

In a recent public statement, I indicated that a current CCC investigation had identified significant and extremely concerning governance failures and cultural issues within the Council. Many of the practices which have been allowed to occur within the Council would not have occurred within an environment where transparency, accountability and good governance were paramount. It is relevant to note that section 12(3)(d) of the *Local Government Act 2009* provides that all councillors are responsible for being accountable to the community for the local government's performance.

In the recent public statement, I also indicated that a public report would be released to discuss the issues the CCC has uncovered throughout the investigation. The report is not yet finalised, but I am in a position to provide the following brief outline of the issues that have been uncovered.

The CCC investigation has revealed the following governance and cultural issues:

- An improper use of power and influence for personal benefit;
- A lack of oversight and accountability for expenditure and public resources;
- Inappropriate relationships between Council and the private sector, in particular property developers and contractors;
- Use of mechanisms that allowed avoidance of scrutiny of actions and decision-making;

UNCLASSIFIED

Page 2

- An inability or unwillingness of council officers to stand up to inappropriate instructions or behaviour of former Mayor Pisasale.
- Failures to report suspicions of corruption, including by successive Chief Executive Officers;
- Instructions to council officers to breach policy and procedures and falsify records; and
- Abusive attitudes towards council officers.

I thank the committee for the opportunity to make this submission. If you require further information, please contact my office directly.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. MacSporran', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

A J MacSporran QC
Chairperson