



Acting Mayor Wayne Wendt
Ipswich City Council
Councillor for Division 5



24 July 2018

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

Dear Secretary,

Inquiry into the Draft Local Government (Dissolution of Ipswich City Council) Bill 2018

I write in regard to the inquiry into the Draft Local Government (Dissolution of Ipswich City Council) Bill 2018.

I have been acting in the role of Mayor of Ipswich City since 3 May 2018, resulting from the suspension of Mayor Andrew Antoniolli. On this day I also received the first Notice Under Section 120, which set out the number of Proposed Actions from the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing, and Minister for Multicultural Affairs the Honourable Stirling Hinchliffe MP. Next, Minister Stirling Hinchliffe changed the law to incorporate a public interest test into a second show cause notice. This was challenged in the Supreme Court. The Minister agreed not to proceed until the court had its say. Now, Minister Stirling Hinchliffe is introducing a new law.

This action is quite clearly an unfair dismissal based on the fact that there is no factual foundation connecting any sitting Councillor with any matter or charge. This needs to be highlighted, because the effect of this Bill will certainly sully the reputations and career prospects of all Councillors, and the organisation itself, simply by association. Even those Councillors and employees charged will have the ability to have their day in court, while the current Councillors will receive no such opportunity.

The Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing, and Minister for Multicultural Affairs habitually broadcasts that residents are crying out for certainty, that Ipswich City Council has an integrity crisis, is dysfunctional and so forth. Councillors' previous responses to show cause notices and recent polling by the media prove otherwise. Attached to this cover letter you will find my previous correspondence regarding submissions and supporting documentation from residents who reside in the City of Ipswich.

Furthermore, for a council that has been described as 'dysfunctional' by the Minister, we are in a very sound and enviable financial position, provide a high level of service to the community, despite unprecedented circumstances and growth, and continue to be acknowledged with industry awards (in the last two years alone winning a significant number of awards, also attached). These third party industry acknowledgments, including awards from the Premier herself, validate the exceptional collective achievements from across this functional, sustainable and competent council. We have not wavered from our duty as Councillors.

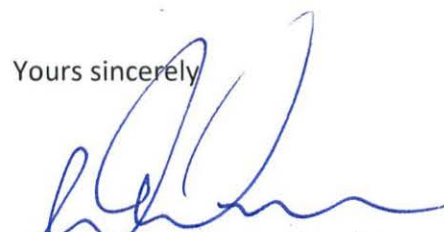
Regrettably for democracy in Queensland, we are now witnessing the very definition of a kangaroo court process; natural justice denied, no right of appeal – a complete and blatant disregard for the legal system. We have only ever sought one outcome from this entire process, and that is a complete and fair hearing, nothing more, nothing less. Additionally, I'm sure the committee is cognisant of concerns from senior members of the legal fraternity and other local authorities who hold grave fears about the blatant abuse of the parliamentary process. Despite the personalities and the politics, this legal scar on Queensland democracy will be permanent.

On a final note, I am confident the Honourable Members of this committee will take a careful, considered examination of the submissions presented before them from the elected representatives of the City of Ipswich as well as other stakeholders. In our view, this bill and its ramifications go far beyond political beliefs and party lines. It strikes at the very heart of one of the most valued Australian traits, equality under the law.

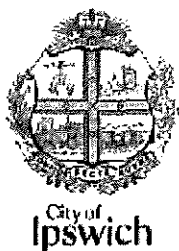
In view of the above I would request that I be invited to attend and speak for no longer than 15 minutes, at the public hearings of the committee set down for Monday 30 July 2018 so that I can more fully point out the deficiencies in this particular piece of legislation.

I look forward to your advice.

Yours sincerely



Acting Mayor Wayne Wendt
City of Ipswich



Acting Mayor Wayne Wendt
Ipswich City Council
Councillor for Division 5



26 June 2018

The Honourable Stirling Hinchliffe MP
Minister for Local Government,
Minister for Racing, and
Minister for Multicultural Affairs
1 William Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Minister

Stirling

Notice given under section 120 of the *Local Government Act 2009 (Qld)* dated 20 June 2018

I write in regard to your second Notice Under Section 120 of the Local Government Act 2009, dated 20 June 2018.

As you would be aware, I have been acting in the role of Mayor of Ipswich City since 3 May 2018, resulting from charges laid against the suspended mayor, Andrew Antoniolli. On this day I also received your first Notice Under Section 120, which set out a number of Proposed Actions you were intending to exercise at that time. These suggested actions were based on a number of reasons highlighted within the Notice, which included:

- The laying of criminal charges against a number of current council employees, previous council employees, previous council contractors, and others with no apparent connection to the council;
- The view that Councillors had not complied with various sections of the LGA, including providing high quality leadership or engagement with the community, and that this had resulted in a lack of community confidence;
- The view that there was a lack of compliance with council's, Councillor Code of Conduct, and
- That there had been a general lack of compliance with Local Government Principles, involving ethical and legal behaviour, by Councillors and local government employees.

Based on the above, the 10 current Ipswich City Councillors undertook a detailed and exhaustive review of the reasoning highlighted in the first Notice and provided a comprehensive submission to your office on 24 May 2018.

45 Roderick Street, IPSWICH QLD 4305

Tel: 07 3810 6201 Email: mayor@ipswich.qld.gov.au Web: ipswich.qld.gov.au

In this submission council was able to provide sufficient detailed evidence to demonstrate that not only were the proposed actions listed in the original Notice unnecessary, but that they were largely based on falsehoods, had little or no foundation, had not been tested by a court, and indeed were not supported by the vast majority of the residents of the city of Ipswich.

It is this council's position that the information included in our original submission provided evidence around how the majority of the issues raised had little or nothing to do with current Councillors, that significant improvements had already been made in regards to the leadership, conduct, governance, transparency and accountability issues highlighted, and that much of the negative publicity had in fact been influenced by a strategic social media campaign largely instigated by a number of failed political candidates, and those with large political axes to grind.

In view of the above, it was therefore a complete surprise to Councillors to receive your second Notice Under Section 120, dated 20 June 2018. This second Notice, although similar to the first, now included a "public interest" test that has only recently been provided under the new legislation.

After undertaking a further detailed analysis of this second Notice, it would appear that the "public interest" test now revolves around the same matters raised in the first Notice, which council had already dispelled, in addition to a number of attachments to the document to support this perspective.

These attachments included media releases from the Crime and Corruption Commission on the charges laid (which were on the public record), what would seem to be largely anonymised negative emails received by the Minister's office, as well as a negative opinion piece provided by an ex State Member for Ipswich. It should be noted that this former State Member, who has been a public critic of the council over a long period of time, recently unsuccessfully applied for the position of ICC CEO, due to a lack of relevant real world experience and professional qualifications. In fact, she failed to make it to the interview stage, (note that the process was managed by an external recruitment company).

In support of this second response, I refer you to Attachment A – a selection of positive correspondence sent to my office from local residents, business people and community groups, not failed candidates with axes to grind, who have faith in their elected representatives and clearly do not want council to be dismissed. All councillors have received similar messages of support which should be acknowledged and reviewed as part of the public interest test.

Having been in the role of Acting Mayor for almost two months now, I can confidently state that the vast majority of residents of the City of Ipswich do not want to see this council dissolved, and an administrator employed until 2020. I have had the opportunity to speak to many residents, business people and potential investors, and I believe that the current council has between 80 percent and 90 percent support across the city. As noted, most of the negativity is coming from a very small, yet vocal, group of failed political candidates with vested interests in the outcome of the Notice.

My belief is that the city is currently going through a period of transformational change which is seeing significant investment in the redevelopment of the Ipswich CBD, new waste management strategies for environmentally friendly innovation, a significant expansion in defence capabilities, and growth in advanced manufacturing, food production, education, health and logistics.

Even within the council itself it is obvious that recent negative publicity has had minimal, if any, impact on council's position as an employer of choice across the region and state, with between 60 and 80 applicants vying for a number of senior roles across the organisation.

Based on the above, I respectfully request that you carefully review this council's response to the second Notice and clearly understand that a decision to dissolve the current council will have a long term, negative impact, not only on the residents of Ipswich, but on the wider regional community. This will manifest in a lack of confidence in the city by residents and investors and could create a downturn in development and economic activity with huge job implications for years to come across the region.

As noted previously, our city has been under siege now for more than 12 months, largely due to a small group of dedicated keyboard warriors, including many with their own agendas and political desires. Unfortunately, we find ourselves in this situation as under the current laws anyone is allowed to post, say and do practically anything they want on social media, with apparent impunity. If the Ipswich City Council is dismissed or dissolved, I believe this will embolden not only this group, but other similar groups throughout the state. Once a precedent has been set by the dismissal of a council based on what we believe to be flawed advice, it will be very difficult for the state to avoid taking these same actions in the future, based on similar advice.

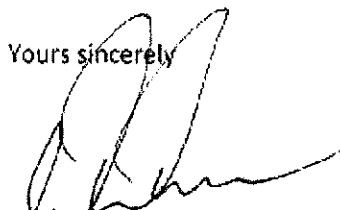
From my personal perspective of having been a Councillor for over two years now, I feel that to judge current Councillors, based on the existing evidence, is no different to the Gordon Nuttall and Mary Rose situations. As you will recall, both you and I were members of the Queensland Parliament at the time when both former members were not only charged but found guilty of receiving corrupt payments and demanding benefits respectively. They both received jail terms accordingly.

During the entire time that this event was unfolding within our communities and the media, I don't recall there ever being any desire for other members of Parliament to resign or be dismissed. Based on this it would certainly have been interesting to see the results of a public interest test had there been one in place at that time.

In conclusion, it is important that I state that even during the most difficult times in recent weeks, Councillors have remained respectful and professional in regard to following the process. I can assure you that all Councillors, despite having very strong views on both Show Cause Notices, have agreed to conduct the process with dignity and in private as opposed to through the media, which some believe may have been of more help.

However, it should also be noted that while all of this was going on, Councillors have not been distracted from continuing to concentrate on working hard for our city. We would hate to see Ipswich suffer unnecessarily.

Yours sincerely



Acting Mayor Wayne Wendt
City of Ipswich

SUMMARY SHEET - EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT (phone messages marked in green)

3/5/18 - On 3 May 2018, at 9:32 pm, [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Wayne, You won't remember us [REDACTED] but we still remember and appreciate all the help you gave us at the time of the floods. In the following election we said that although the colour of your politics were not ours we would support the man if not the party. And we still do. We feel sad that a politician of your integrity should be caught up in the sleaze that is now happening. Would that we could elect you to lead the council and know that Ipswich would be in safe hands. But we can't. All we can do is offer our best wishes and hope that not too much of the dirt rubs off on you and hope that eventually you will emerge to continue be one of the few politicians that the electorate can trust. With all best wishes, [REDACTED]

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4/5/18 - On 4 May 2018, at 9:35 pm, [REDACTED] wrote: Dear Sterling

As long-time residents of Ipswich we wish to inform you **WE HAVE CONFIDENCE IN WAYNE WENDT** who **WE ELECTED!!!**

Please advise us where is the forum that IPSWICH RESIDENTS CAN HAVE THEIR SAY about our Councillors and/or a Council Administrator!?!

DO NOT TAKE AWAY OUR RIGHT TO VOTE FOR AND KEEP IN OFFICE OUR REPRESENTATIVES IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT!!!

We **DO NOT WANT ONE STATE MINISTER** to have the decision to remove **hard working Councillors who have the respect of their constituents and have not done anything illegal!!!** These men and women live in Ipswich, play in Ipswich, their families are educated in Ipswich and they have grown up in Ipswich!. They are approachable, supportive of local community groups, schools, sporting teams, businesses and the average person who greets them in the street and at the numerous functions they attend as our Ipswich City Council Members!

Furthermore recent media of:

"The city's Ratepayers and Residents Association, which claims to have around 100 paid members, believes Miller would have significant support." surely **DOES NOT** represent what a population of 200,000 is thinking...

Our City has grown and prospered through the hard work of our Councillors.

Media reports that residents are "fed up" and are "humiliated" and "it is time to act" when an entire community loses faith in its elected leaders " certainly do not parallel with our pride in our city.

We urge you to visit Ipswich and/or listen to more of the residents and give us our say in **OUR CITY!!!**

Respect our elected choices of local government...WE VOTED FOR THEM AFTER ALL!!!

Yours sincerely [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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20/5/18 - On 20 May 2018, at 10:25 am, [REDACTED] wrote: G'day to Jennifer and Wayne. For your interest....Thought we should send you a copy of the e-mail below. Regard [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, 20 May 2018 9:46 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Ipswich Council

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 20 May 2018 9:41 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Ipswich Council

To the Minister for Local Government, Stirling Hinchcliffe, Dear Stirling, We are residents of Division 5 in Ipswich. Our local councillor is Wayne Wendt (acting Mayor). We were previously in Division 7 and Andrew Antonioli was our representative. We found Andrew to be an excellent councillor over many years. We have met most of the councillors over many years and have found them to be excellent representatives Who have always worked very hard and put Ipswich first!! We are very much opposed to their dismissal. !!!

We consider it would be **very unjust** to rob the other councillors of their lively hood based on the actions of two.....neither of whom has been found guilty of anything.

Also we would remind you that this council has improved Ipswich markedly in recent years and deserve recognition for this. We would hope and believe A.A. will be cleared anyway. We have had many connections with him working for our electorate and Ipswich over the years and feel he is a good bloke with only the best for Ipswich in his heart. Hopefully it will all be sorted soon. Regards, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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28/5/18 Letter received in the mail from [REDACTED] supporting ICC (see attached). WG



img-528103754-...

From [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, 21 June 2018 11:29 AM

To: Wayne Wendt <Wayne.Wendt@ipswich.qld.gov.au>

Subject: Continuing My Support

My dear Wayne, Noting the deadline given by the state government please accept my continuing support for you and the council. Although I don't live in Ipswich anymore the close workings with many councillors and others in the council over the years on various matters and especially the contact and discussions with you have been of the highest order

The apparent lack of the application of common justice in the state government's precipitous legislation on this matter must be of major concern not just to mayors and councillors in all electorates but to all citizens who perceive that guilt is decided by the courts not be separate entities and that a working association with people who may be charged does not transfer any perceived guilt to others.

Please keep up the excellent work. kind regards, [REDACTED]

From [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, 24 June 2018 8:12 PM

To: Wayne Wendt <Wayne.Wendt@ipswich.qld.gov.au>

Subject: IPSWICH ADMINISTRATORS

To whom it may concern personally

Dear Wayne, I am writing to request that you would consider defending Ipswich from Administrators. Be bold, strong and courage's as it is obvious God has His hand on you and you were appointed for time such as this. Read Esther in the good book, The Bible. To have Administrators for our city would be a move backwards for our city for years.

We as a city are rich and rare in the fact that we have been designated for a call, a most high call, much higher than just any city. Our city has been prophesied over as the initial Flickering Flame of Holy Ghost Fire for a move of God on the earth, a revival to sweep the South East of Queensland first then our nation and eventually the world. This is paramount right now as we speak, history is in the making for our city which has been set apart.

Many have laid down their lives in this great city, snatching it out of demonic strongholds and praying it back into the hands of Almighty God. Can you see that is why this is a battle for territory.

We must stand to protect its future and carry the baton to run the race as if to win. We as a city always increase and to bring in Administrators now would decrease us. Regardless of the systems, the media and the natural circumstances, I declare Ipswich is a city of Hope and Holiness and I am asking that you would not look in the natural but look to the supernatural power of God to run this great city. What a privilege, Ipswich, a future of Integrity, Justice and Honor.

The time is right for the true custodians of this city to rule and reign. This request is from a heart of passion, of wisdom and revelation. We expect a miracle this Wednesday. Thanking you and praying for you. [REDACTED]

 ---Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, 24 June 2018 11:05 AM

To: Wayne Wendt <Wayne.Wendt@ipswich.qld.gov.au>

Subject: Hi Wayne, Thank you for your assistance since you've been in Council, it is greatly appreciated. I have written a letter of support for Ipswich City Councillors remaining in their elected positions, and you have my permission to use it as you wish. To Whom it May Concern.

I read with great concern that the State Government is considering sacking the entire Council of Ipswich. This, I believe would be a massive mistake, and cause untold heartache, confusion, and be a financial disaster for ALL Ipswich-ians.

I am writing in support of the elected, honest Ipswich City Councillors, being allowed to remain in office to carry out the job they were fairly elected to do.

The CCC has conducted a lengthy, exhaustive and thorough investigation into Ipswich City Council, and rightly charged those suspected to be guilty of breaking the law. The remaining Councillors have passed this rigorous, lengthy scrutiny, have not been charged, nor suspected of any wrongdoing, and therefore should be deemed innocent, and be allowed to carry out the duties the Ipswich residents elected them to do. I know first hand that they hold Ipswich residents in high regard, and work tirelessly, and selflessly to create and support an excellent community. To punish them, for the misdeeds of a few, is to punish the entire community, which would be entirely unfair to the region, the Councillors themselves and ALL Ipswich residents, business and community groups. Councillors are the contact point between all these different local groups and local government, they provide vital advice and guidance through what can be seen as a maze of bureaucracy, and make decisions for the benefit of all.

I ask that these Councillors (and the public) be shown the respect they deserve, and be allowed to serve the public for the period they were elected for.

Sincerely yours, [REDACTED]

Lifetime Ipswich Resident

Vice Chairman, [REDACTED]

Life Member [REDACTED]

Life Member [REDACTED]

Former Chairman, [REDACTED]

Father, Grandfather [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone [REDACTED]

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-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 24 June 2018 10:27 AM
To: Wayne Wendt <Wayne.Wendt@ipswich.qld.gov.au>
Subject: No administrators for Ipswich

Dear Acting Mayor Wendt,

As a prior home owner and resident [REDACTED] in Ipswich and part of a church in Ipswich, [REDACTED] we are totally against administrators being appointed to the Ipswich Council and would appreciate your continuing with the present council.

Kind regards

[REDACTED] Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 23 June 2018 8:27 PM
To: Wayne Wendt <Wayne.Wendt@ipswich.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Message [REDACTED]

Good evening Wayne,

I am contacting you on behalf of the Executive of the [REDACTED] to express concern at the current situation facing the Ipswich City Council in relation to the demands being placed on it by the Minister for Local Government.

While it is not possible for the average citizen to know all the details of the recent Council upheaval, it would seem that a very small vocal minority with a grievance is being listened to, and there has been no avenue for the silent majority to register support. The latter are the people who have consistently shown faith in the current Councillors by continuing to re-elect them.

As you know, working in conjunction with the [REDACTED] (whose tourism efforts are impressive), the [REDACTED] hosts Luncheon Tours for busloads of visitors from all over south east Queensland. We have been doing this for the last 15 years and over that period of time, the most consistent comment from them has been, "We wish we had your Mayor and your Council."

Many of them knew what a hard time Ipswich had gone through and, like the locals, appreciated the extraordinary energy which has gone into raising the profile of the city and the morale of those who live here.

Not only has this been observed in Queensland but the Council has had international recognition in regard to many of the systems they have put in place.

At a more immediate level, working out of one of the Council's heritage buildings - [REDACTED] as we do, we are very aware of the ICC Heritage policy and know that it is seen as an exemplar for all of Australia. So much has been achieved by this Council on so many levels.

While we can see that certain issues need to be examined, it is very difficult to understand how leaving a Council and a city in limbo is to anyone's advantage. Equally, we do not understand why all the good that has been achieved does not seem to be given any consideration.

If there is any way in which the voice of one of the oldest Ipswich cultural groups can be of use, we are happy that it be heard.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, 23 June 2018 4:02 PM

To: Wayne Wendt <Wayne.Wendt@ipswich.qld.gov.au>

Subject: Wayne asked me to share this with you, I posted on Facebook

I am one to speak my mind, stand up for what I believe and will take a hit or two over it, but that's ok.

Whether you agree with me or not is ok to, but I am not writing this post to create a fight or drama, I am writing it because of care and compassion for those I believe in.

After reading the QT today regarding the Councillors of the Ipswich City Council, so I wrote my thoughts to the Minister.

I am happy and proud to call many who sit on the council friends and some I have known for many years. For me to see and hear what they and their families are going through is difficult. They are elected officials and deserve to be treated with respect and the fact that the decision for them to show a second cause to stay elected is degrading.

These councillors work hard for the divisions they represent and have always done the right by the community. To be looked upon as criminals when they have not been investigated is wrong, and they should be allowed to carry on with their duties.

Many negative comments that have been written are hurtful and show no regard for the fact that the said people read and their families read. I know personally what that is like and for someone who really does not know the people they bag personally but take on board what the haters are going to say is demoralizing and heartbreaking to see.

I stand proud beside the councillors who are my friends, acquaintances and some who I see the hard work they do on a day to day basis.

I seriously hope the Minister thinks this decision over very clearly.

Yes I understand their are angry people out in the community but don't be quick to judge others due to actions by others.

Like I said I will always stand on my beliefs and have respect for workers, and anyone being unfairly treated by Governments.

You can agree and or disagree with me that's ok, but let's also consider the mental health and stress this has taken on many involved, and take on board how you yourself or your family and friends would be feeling. [REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, 25 June 2018 12:20 PM

To: Wayne Wendt <Wayne.Wendt@ipswich.qld.gov.au>

Subject: Save our Council

Good morning Wayne,

I have attached a letter to yourself regarding my concerns that our Ipswich City Council may be replaced by administrators.

I have also attached the response letter I have received from my initial letter to the Minister voicing my overwhelming support of Ipswich Council.

After many people asked I have also circulated this address to our congregation so they can write to yourself with their support.

Please know that we pray for you regularly and that you have our overwhelming support!

Blessings to you, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, 22 June 2018 10:25 AM

To: theppremier@premiers.qld.gov.au; deputy.premier@ministerial.qld.gov.au; lgma@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Cc: Wayne Wendt <Wayne.Wendt@ipswich.qld.gov.au>

Subject: Ipswich City Council

Dear Premier, Deputy Premier and Minister for Local Government.

I am writing in relation to the prospect of the entire Ipswich City Council being dismissed by the Queensland Government.

I wish to advise that I am strongly in disagreement with this move should it be forthcoming.

Yes I strongly agree that appropriate action needs to be taken against any member or members of the council found to be guilty of misconduct.

I also strongly believe that Councillors W. Wendt, D. Morrison, P. Tully, K. Silver, K. Stoneman, C. Bromage, D. Martin, C. Pisasale, S. Ireland and D. Pahlke are all hard working members of the Ipswich City Council and who to the best of my knowledge have not been charged with any misconduct charges and therefore should be left to remain in office as elected.

I want these remaining elected Councillors to continue running and representing the people of Ipswich.

I do not want an Administrator appointed by the Queensland Government to come in and take over the running of the Council.

Leave the remaining duly elected Councillors to continue running the Council.

I hope you take into consideration my views when this matter is being considered.

Regards, [REDACTED]

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Division 5 Office

From: Wayne Wendt
Sent: Friday, 4 May 2018 7:16 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Division 5 Office
Subject: Re. Ipswich crisis

[REDACTED] and thanks for the email.

Don't worry as I remember you well and I'm glad the drainage issue was resolved.

I appreciate you taking the time to send me your thoughts and if you had the time a similar comment to the QT might be helpful at this difficult time.

Cheers
Wayne

Sent from my iPhone

> On 3 May 2018, at 9:32 pm, [REDACTED] wrote:

>

> Dear Wayne,

>

> You won't remember us [REDACTED] but we still remember and appreciate all the help you gave us at the time of the floods. In the following election we said that although the colour of your politics were not ours we would support the man if not the party.

> And we still do. We feel sad that a politician of your integrity should be caught up in the sleaze that is now happening. Would that we could elect you to lead the council and know that Ipswich would be in safe hands. But we can't. All we can do is offer our best wishes and hope that not too much of the dirt rubs off on you and hope that eventually you will emerge to continue be one of the few politicians that the electorate can trust.

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> -----With all best wishes,

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Division 5 Office

From: Wayne Wendt
Sent: Thursday, 21 June 2018 3:51 PM
To: Division 5 Office
Subject: FW: We have CONFIDENCE IN OUR COUNCILLOR!!!

From: Wayne Wendt
Sent: Saturday, 5 May 2018 6:41 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Division 5 Office <Div5Office@ipswich.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Re: We have CONFIDENCE IN OUR COUNCILLOR!!!

Thanks [REDACTED]

I appreciate you taking the time to put this together and send onto the Minister. I'm not sure what the future holds but I'm confident I can hold my head high.

Cheers
Wayne

Sent from my iPhone



The information contained in this email and any attachments is privileged and confidential and is intended for use only by the addressee. Copying, distributing, or disclosing the information contained in this email and any attachments is prohibited unless expressly authorised by the sender. If you are not the intended recipient, and you have received this message in error, do not read, copy or distribute this email. If you have received this message in error, please delete all copies of this message from your system and notify the sender by return email. It is recommended that you scan this email and any attachments for viruses. Ipswich City Council does not accept liability for any loss or damage incurred directly or indirectly caused by opening this email and/or any attachments.

On 4 May 2018, at 9:35 pm, [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Sterling

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Furthermore recent media of:

"The city's Ratepayers and Residents Association, which claims to have around 100 paid members, believes Miller would have significant support."

surely DOES NOT represent what a population of 200,000 is thinking...

Our City has grown and prospered through the hard work of our Councillors.

Media reports that residents are "fed up" and are "humiliated" and "it is time to act" when an entire community loses faith in its elected leaders " certainly do not parallel with our pride in our city.

We urge you to visit Ipswich and/or listen to more of the residents and give us our say in OUR CITY!!!

Respect our elected choices of local government...WE VOTED FOR THEM AFTER ALL!!!

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Division 5 Office

From: Wayne Wendt
Sent: Sunday, 20 May 2018 12:11 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: ipswich@parliament.qld.gov.au; Division 5 Office: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Ipswich Council

Thanks [REDACTED] for the confidence.

Cheers
Wayne

Sent from my iPhone

On 20 May 2018, at 10:25 am [REDACTED] wrote:

G'day to Jennifer and Wayne.

For your interest...
Thought we should send you a copy of the e-mail below.

Regards,

[REDACTED]
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 20 May 2018 9:46 AM
To: 'lgma@ministerial.qld.gov.au'
Subject: FW: Ipswich Council

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 20 May 2018 9:41 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Ipswich Council

To the Minister for Local Government,
Stirling Hinchcliffe,

Dear Stirling,

We are residents of Division 5 in Ipswich.
Our local councillor is Wayne Wendt (acting Mayor).

We were previously in Division 7 and Andrew Antoniolli was our representative.
We found Andrew to be an excellent councillor over many years.

We have met most of the councillors over many years and have found them to be excellent representatives
Who have always worked very hard and put Ipswich first!!
We are very much opposed to their dismissal. !!!

We consider it would be **very unjust** to rob the other councillors of their lively hood based on the actions of two.....neither of whom has been found guilty of anything.
Also we would remind you that this council has improved Ipswich markedly in recent years and deserve recognition for this.

We would hope and believe A.A. will be cleared anyway. We have had many connections with him working for our electorate and Ipswich over the years and feel he is a good bloke with only the best for Ipswich in his heart.

Hopefully it will all be sorted soon.

Regards,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature and name of the sender.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
24 May 2018

Hon Stirling Hinchliffe
PO Box 15009
Brisbane City East 4002

RECEIVED
28 MAY 2018
BY:

The Hon Stirling Hinchliffe

Dear Sir,

My name is [REDACTED] my family have resided in Ipswich and Moreton shire since the early 1960's and have had many dealings with council throughout that time. My concerns are for the encumbered councillors who are at risk of losing their jobs because of the accusations, jealousy and vindictive nature of some person or persons. Although some councillors and staff members are under suspicion of crime and corruption charges we all have to remember at this stage none have been found guilty; however, the ripple affect keeps going through their families' friends and communities – especially when lives are lost as a result of such allegation.

As a senior resident I have personally worked alongside several of the councillors as a volunteer on many senior projects and got to know these people on a more personal level. I've seen how diligent and hardworking they are for their constituents and communities and believe it will be a gross injustice not only for them to be sacked but for the communities whom they represent.

I believe for Ipswich to lose our council - councillors and placed under the jurisdiction of an administrator will deprive all residents of the warmth, caring and friendliness that our councillors give of themselves throughout their line of duty.

My concerns are if we lose good councillors like Sheila Ireland, David Phalke, Charlie Pisasale and David Morrison, all whom I have worked alongside as a volunteer and respect greatly. As for the rest of the encumbered councillors I haven't worked alongside I believe they do just as good a job and deserve to retain their position they were voted into by their constituents

What really worries me is if Ipswich City is placed under the jurisdiction of an administrator we will all end up living in a morgue where it is cold and very impersonal, in fact we would never ever see a living soul, whereas our councillors know the people and problems that exist in their divisions and make it their priority to be seen, and do their best to solve problems as they arise and get the job done.

I really hope due consideration is given to our council – councillors before such an unsavoury action is taken.

Yours faithfully
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Division 5 Office

From: Wayne Wendt
Sent: Thursday, 21 June 2018 3:51 PM
To: Division 5 Office
Subject: FW: Continuing My Support

Also collate this one

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 21 June 2018 11:29 AM
To: Wayne Wendt <Wayne.Wendt@ipswich.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Continuing My Support

My dear Wayne,

Noting the deadline given by the state government please accept my continuing support for you and the council.

Although I don't live in Ipswich anymore the close workings with many councillors and others in the council over the years on various matters and especially the contact and discussions with you have been of the highest order.

The apparent lack of the application of common justice in the state government's precipitous legislation on this matter must be of major concern not just to mayors and councillors in all electorates but to all citizens who perceive that guilt is decided by the courts not by separate entities and that a working association with people who may be charged does not transfer any perceived guilt to others.

Please keep up the excellent work.

kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Division 5 Office

From: Wayne Wendt
Sent: Monday, 25 June 2018 8:23 AM
To: Division 5 Office
Subject: FW: IPSWICH ADMINISTRATORS

Collate please

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 24 June 2018 8:12 PM
To: Wayne Wendt <Wayne.Wendt@ipswich.qld.gov.au>
Subject: IPSWICH ADMINISTRATORS

To whom it may concern personally

Dear Wayne,

I am writing to request that you would consider defending Ipswich from Administrators. Be bold, strong and courage's as it is obvious God has His hand on you and you were appointed for time such as this. Read Esther in the good book, The Bible. To have Administrators for our city would be a move backwards for our city for years. We as a city are rich and rare in the fact that we have been designated for a call, a most high call, much higher than just any city. Our city has been prophesied over as the initial Flickering Flame of Holy Ghost Fire for a move of God on the earth, a revival to sweep the South East of Queensland first then our nation and eventually the world. This is paramount right now as we speak, history is in the making for our city which has been set apart. Many have laid down their lives in this great city, snatching it out of demonic strongholds and praying it back into the hands of Almighty God. Can you see that is why this is a battle for territory. We must stand to protect its future and carry the baton to run the race as if to win. We as a city always increase and to bring in Administrators now would decrease us. Regardless of the systems, the media and the natural circumstances, I declare Ipswich is a city of Hope and Holiness and I am asking that you would not look in the natural but look to the supernatural power of God to run this great city. What a privilege, Ipswich. a future of Integrity, Justice and Honor. The time is right for the true custodians of this city to rule and reign. This request is from a heart of passion, of wisdom and revelation. We expect a miracle this Wednesday. Thanking you and praying for you.

[REDACTED]



Virus-free. www.ovast.com

Division 5 Office

From: Wayne Wendt
Sent: Monday, 25 June 2018 8:23 AM
To: Division 5 Office
Subject: FW: Hi Wayne,

Collate please

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 24 June 2018 11:05 AM
To: Wayne Wendt <Wayne.Wendt@ipswich.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Hi Wayne,

Hi Wayne,

Thank you for your assistance since you've been in Council, it is greatly appreciated. I have written a letter of support for Ipswich City Councillors remaining in their elected positions, and you have my permission to use it as you wish. To Whom it May Concern.

I read with great concern that the State Government is considering sacking the entire Council of Ipswich. This, I believe would be a massive mistake, and cause untold heartache, confusion, and be a financial disaster for ALL Ipswich-ians.

I am writing in support of the elected, honest Ipswich City Councillors, being allowed to remain in office to carry out the job they were fairly elected to do.

The CCC has conducted a lengthy, exhaustive and thorough investigation into Ipswich City Council, and rightly charged those suspected to be guilty of breaking the law. The remaining Councillors have passed this rigorous, lengthy scrutiny, have not been charged, nor suspected of any wrongdoing, and therefore should be deemed innocent, and be allowed to carry out the duties the Ipswich residents elected them to do. I know first hand that they hold Ipswich residents in high regard, and work tirelessly, and selflessly to create and support an excellent community. To punish them, for the misdeeds of a few, is to punish the entire community, which would be entirely unfair to the region, the Councillors themselves and ALL Ipswich residents, business and community groups. Councillors are the contact point between all these different local groups and local government, they provide vital advice and guidance through what can be seen as a maze of bureaucracy, and make decisions for the benefit of all.

I ask that these Councillors (and the public) be shown the respect they deserve, and be allowed to serve the public for the period they were elected for.

Sincerely yours,

[REDACTED]
Lifetime Ipswich Resident

Vice Chairman [REDACTED]

Life Member [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Former Chairman [REDACTED]

Father, Grandfather [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Cheers
[REDACTED]

Division 5 Office

From: Wayne Wendt
Sent: Monday, 25 June 2018 8:23 AM
To: Division 5 Office
Subject: FW: No administrators for Ipswich

Collate

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 24 June 2018 10:27 AM
To: Wayne Wendt <Wayne.Wendt@ipswich.qld.gov.au>
Subject: No administrators for Ipswich

Dear Acting Mayor Wendt,

As a prior home owner and resident [REDACTED] in Ipswich and part of a church in Ipswich, [REDACTED] we are totally against administrators being appointed to the Ipswich Council and would appreciate your continuing with the present council.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
Sent from my iPhone

Division 5 Office

From: Wayne Wendt
Sent: Monday, 25 June 2018 8:24 AM
To: Division 5 Office
Subject: FW: Message from [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 23 June 2018 8:27 PM
To: Wayne Wendt <Wayne.Wendt@ipswich.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Message from [REDACTED]

Good evening Wayne,

I am contacting you on behalf of the Executive [REDACTED] express concern at the current situation facing the Ipswich City Council in relation to the demands being placed on it by the Minister for Local Government.

While it is not possible for the average citizen to know all the details of the recent Council upheaval, it would seem that a very small vocal minority with a grievance is being listened to, and there has been no avenue for the silent majority to register support. The latter are the people who have consistently shown faith in the current Councillors by continuing to re-elect them.

As you know, working in conjunction with the [REDACTED] (whose tourism efforts are impressive), the [REDACTED] hosts Luncheon Tours for busloads of visitors from all over south east Queensland. We have been doing this for the last 15 years and over that period of time, the most consistent comment from them has been, "We wish we had your Mayor and your Council."

Many of them knew what a hard time Ipswich had gone through and, like the locals, appreciated the extraordinary energy which has gone into raising the profile of the city and the morale of those who live here.

Not only has this been observed in Queensland but the Council has had international recognition in regard to many of the systems they have put in place.

At a more immediate level, working out of one of the Council's heritage buildings - [REDACTED] as we do, we are very aware of the ICC Heritage policy and know that it is seen as an exemplar for all of Australia. So much has been achieved by this Council on so many levels.

While we can see that certain issues need to be examined, it is very difficult to understand how leaving a Council and a city in limbo is to anyone's advantage. Equally, we do not understand why all the good that has been achieved does not seem to be given any consideration.

If there is any way in which the voice of one of the oldest Ipswich cultural groups can be of use, we are happy that it be heard.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Division 5 Office

From: Wayne Wendt
Sent: Monday, 25 June 2018 8:24 AM
To: Division 5 Office
Subject: FW: Wayne asked me to share this with you, I posted on Facebook

Collate

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 23 June 2018 4:02 PM
To: Wayne Wendt <Wayne.Wendt@ipswich.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Wayne asked me to share this with you, I posted on Facebook

I am one to speak my mind, stand up for what I believe and will take a hit or two over it, but that's ok. Whether you agree with me or not is ok to, but I am not writing this post to create a fight or drama. I am writing it because of care and compassion for those I believe in.

After reading the QT today regarding the Councillors of the Ipswich City Council, so I wrote my thoughts to the Minister.

I am happy and proud to call many who sit on the council friends and some I have known for many years. For me to see and hear what they and their families are going through is difficult. They are elected officials and deserve to be treated with respect and the fact that the decision for them to show a second cause to stay elected is degrading.

These councillors work hard for the divisions they represent and have always done the right by the community. To be looked upon as criminals when they have not been investigated is wrong, and they should be allowed to carry on with their duties.

Many negative comments that have been written are hurtful and show no regard for the fact that the said people read and their families read. I know personally what that is like and for someone who really does not know the people they bag personally but take on board what the haters are going to say is demoralizing and heartbreaking to see.

I stand proud beside the councillors who are my friends, acquaintances and some who I see the hard work they do on a day to day basis.

I seriously hope the Minister thinks this decision over very clearly.

Yes I understand there are angry people out in the community but don't be quick to judge others due to actions by others.

Like I said I will always stand on my beliefs and have respect for workers, and anyone being unfairly treated by Governments.

You can agree and or disagree with me that's ok, but let's also consider the mental health and stress this has taken on many involved, and take on board how you yourself or your family and friends would be feeling.

[REDACTED]

Division 5 Office

From: Wayne Wendt
Sent: Monday, 25 June 2018 12:31 PM
To: Division 5 Office
Subject: FW: Save our Council
Attachments: wayne wendt support of council docx; Letter from the ministers office.pdf

Collate please

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 25 June 2018 12:20 PM
To: Wayne Wendt <Wayne.Wendt@ipswich.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Save our Council

Good morning Wayne,

I have attached a letter to yourself regarding my concerns that our Ipswich City Council may be replaced by administrators.

I have also attached the response letter I have received from my initial letter to the Minister voicing my overwhelming support of Ipswich Council.

After many people asked I have also circulated this address to our congregation so they to can write to yourself with their support.

Please know that we pray for you regularly and that you have our overwhelming support!

Blessings to you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

25/06/2018

To the Acting Mayor, Wayne Wendt.

I am writing to address my concerns that we may lose our Council and have administrators appointed in the City of Ipswich.

As a local resident in Ipswich, [REDACTED] and as the treasurer of the [REDACTED] I hear the concerns of other residents regularly.

It has become overwhelmingly apparent to myself through these interactions that many residents of Ipswich do not want Administrators appointed over our City and that we are in fact overwhelmingly happy with and concerned for our local council

This was also evident amongst the many people who attend churches across our city. on Sunday the 17th of June, when over 40 local Ipswich City Churches from across the denominations held Prayer in our local churches to appeal to our Lord and Saviour to save Ipswich City Council.

Ipswich has fought hard to regain a healthy reputation and whilst I understand the hard work of the CCC with their investigations this long process has drawn such negative attention to our city once again.

I speak for myself and for my congregation when I say, we believe that sacking the remaining members of Ipswich City Council to appoint administrators would bring great damage to the reputation and the businesses within our great City.

If there is anything we the people can do to bring attention to our view that keeping our Ipswich City Council in control of the City is the best outcome for us the residents and also our churches, businesses and welfare programs, please let me know as we would like our voices heard.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Minister for Local Government,
Minister for Racing and
Minister for Multicultural Affairs

Our ref: [REDACTED]

1 William Street
Brisbane Queensland 4000
PO Box 15009
City East Queensland 4002
Telephone +61 7 3719 7560
Email lgma@miniseta.lcid.gov.au
Website www.lgma.qld.gov.au

ABN 65 959 415 158

20 June 2018

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 11 June 2018 to the Honourable Stirling Hinchliffe MP, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs about the Ipswich City Council. The Minister has asked that I respond on his behalf.

I note your views about the Council and about the possible dismissal or suspension of the Council. As I am sure you can appreciate, the current situation has raised some very serious concerns about, not only the conduct of individuals, but the Council itself. As you may be aware, the Crime and Corruption Commission's investigation of the Council is still ongoing.

The Queensland Government is responsible for the legislative framework within which Councils operate. Section 123 of the *Local Government Act 2009* provides that if the Minister reasonably believes a Local Government has seriously or continuously breached the Local Government principles, is incapable of performing its responsibilities or where it is in the public interest to do so, the Minister may recommend to the Governor in Council that the Local Government be dissolved or suspended.

The Minister wrote to the Council asking it to Show Cause as to why the Council should not be dismissed or suspended. The Minister is now thoroughly considering all responses to the Show Cause Notice before coming to any determination.

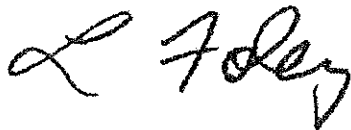
You can be assured that the Minister takes the concerns of the community extremely seriously and will carefully weigh up all options before making a decision about the Council.

Further, the Queensland Government recently passed new legislation to automatically suspend Councillors facing certain charges. The Queensland Government is focused on getting the best outcomes for the community and restoring community confidence in their Local Governments.

Thank you for taking the time to provide the Minister with your views and concerns. You can be assured that the Minister will consider all views expressed by the community when deciding which course of action to take regarding the Council.

If you require further information, I encourage you to contact [REDACTED] Acting Regional Manager, Local Government and Regional Services (South) in the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs on [REDACTED] or by email at [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Foley', written in a cursive style.

LOUISE FOLEY
CHIEF OF STAFF

Division 5 Office

From: Wayne Wendt
Sent: Friday, 22 June 2018 10:27 AM
To: Division 5 Office
Subject: FW: Ipswich City Council

Please collate

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 22 June 2018 10:25 AM
To: thepremier@premiers.qld.gov.au; deputy.premier@ministerial.qld.gov.au; lgrma@ministerial.qld.gov.au
Cc: Wayne Wendt <Wayne.Wendt@ipswich.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Ipswich City Council

Dear Premier, Deputy Premier and Minister for Local Government.

I am writing in relation to the prospect of the entire Ipswich City Council being dismissed by the Queensland Government.

I wish to advise that I am strongly in disagreement with this move should it be forthcoming.

Yes I strongly agree that appropriate action needs to be taken against any member or members of the council found to be guilty of misconduct.

I also strongly believe that Councillors W. Wendt, D. Morrison, P. Tully, K. Silver, K. Stoneman, C. Bromage, D. Martin, C. Pisasale, S. Ireland and D. Pahlke are all hard working members of the Ipswich City Council and who to the best of my knowledge have not been charged with any misconduct charges and therefore should be left to remain in office as elected.

I want these remaining elected Councillors to continue running and representing the people of Ipswich.

I do not want an Administrator appointed by the Queensland Government to come in and take over the running of the Council.

Leave the remaining duly elected Councillors to continue running the Council.

I hope you take into consideration my views when this matter is being considered.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 26 June 2018 at 6:16:10 pm AEST
To: Wayne Wendt <Wayne.Wendt@ipswich.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Ipswich Council

Cr Wayne Wendt
Acting Mayor

Dear Wayne

I just wanted to send you a quick email to express my profound disappointment at the recent decision as Minister of Local Government to seek the dismissal of our City Council – citing the people of Ipswich have lost confidence in their Council.

As an active member of the Ipswich Community I have spoken to a number of local people canvassing their views on this situation – and they all declare their dismay at your government's knee jerk response to simply dismiss all 10 Councillors on the basis of unproven allegations of misconduct made against other people.

I strongly support you and all of our current sitting councillors and trust that wisdom prevails and that you all retain your positions. You have been democratically elected at the polling booth – and it is the electors who should determine your future when the next election falls due in March 2020.

Keep the Council!

Best Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ipswich City Council: Industry acknowledgements (last 2 years)

1. 2018 Smart City Asia Pacific Administration Award
International Data Corporation
2. 2017 Excellence in Marketing and Promotion
Economic Development Australia
3. 2017 Premier's Award for Public Sector Transformation
Australian Information Industry Association
4. 2017 Innovative Management Award
Local Government Professionals Australia
5. 2017 Gold – Destination Marketing
Queensland Tourism Awards
6. 2017 Gold – Visitor Information Services
Queensland Tourism Awards
7. 2017 Excellence in Innovation Award
Local Government Managers Queensland
8. 2018 Travel, Leisure and Media
Australian Effie Awards
Finalist
9. 2017 Digital Entrepreneurship
Economic Development Australia
Finalist
10. 2017 Excellence in Tourism Marketing
Australian Marketing Institute
Finalist
11. 2017 Destination Marketing
Australian Tourism Awards
Finalist
12. 2017 Visitor Information Services
Australian Tourism Awards
Finalist
13. Australasian Catalogue Association
Ipswich Enviroplan 2017 Calendar
ACA - Australasian Catalogue Awards 2017
Finalist

14. Healthy Land & Water
Design Your Creek Week
Healthy Land & Water Awards 2017
Finalist
15. Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation
Ipswich - Encouraging Participation
QORF Award - Encourage Participation
Finalist
16. Parks & Leisure Australia Awards of Excellence
Active Parks Program
Community Program of The Year Award
Winner
17. Parks & Leisure Australia Awards of Excellence
NAEUS App
Best Use of Technology Award
Winner
18. LGMA Awards
Line of Sight
Teamwork
Highly Commended
19. LGMA Awards
NAEUS App
Innovation Award
Winner
20. The AIBS Recognition of Professional Excellence 2018
Building Surveying
Winner
21. 2018 Top 7 Intelligent Communities
Intelligent Communities Forum
22. 2018 Smart 21 Communities
Intelligent Communities Forum
23. 2017 Top 7 Intelligent Communities
Intelligent Communities Forum
24. 2017 Smart 21 Communities
Intelligent Communities Forum
25. 2018 Queensland Park and Leisure Australia (PLA) Awards of Excellence
NAEUS Explore app
Best Use of Technology category
State winner

26. 2018 Queensland Park and Leisure Australia (PLA) Awards of Excellence

Active Parks Program

Community Based Initiative of the Year

State winner

27. Small Creek Naturalisation Project – multiple awards

- National Landscape Award for Land Management, Australian Institute of Landscape Architects
Winner
- Award of Excellence in Strategic or Master Planning, Stormwater Queensland
Winner
- Government Stewardship, Healthy Land and Water Awards
Finalist
- River Basin Management Society – Involving Community in Waterway Management
Finalist
- Minister's Urban Design Awards
Commendation