

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Economics and Governance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Inquiry reviewing the State Government's plan to dismiss the Ipswich City Council  
**Date:** Wednesday, 25 July 2018 9:09:06 AM

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RE: Inquiry reviewing the State Government's plan to dismiss the Ipswich City Council

I would like to voice my disappointment at the processes that have taken place in the State Government's handling of the Ipswich City Council. After following the story over the past months and having long term interactions with a number of our local counsellors, I absolutely agree that there needs to be transparency and the highest levels of scrutiny over their actions. However from looking at the charges relating to our mayor and the way he was going about making changes and improvements. I fear that you are taking out the very person who was putting processes in place that you are after! The reports that are coming out with issues around mishandling of funds, were reports that Ipswich City Council asked to have done. For me, this means that they were in the process of finding problems and fixing them, not in the midst of disaster.

The political wrangling's that have marked this process seem to me to be the sad state of politics in our current era on both sides of the political divide. It seems to be more about points scoring for the next election and less about the kind of leadership that gets real change to take place.

As a resident of Ipswich and a leader of a community group, we have been very happy with our elected officials and meet with them regularly. They are imperfect people, like all of us are and will make mistakes that they need to be held accountable to. However no one gets sacked, because their boss did the wrong thing and some have given up careers to serve as counsellors, which will make it very hard for them to return to the workforce, especially with the negative media attention this has received.

Again, I want to add that I am all for due process and making sure that our elected officials are kept accountable, however I don't see taring them all with the same brush is fair, or politically wise. Unless you are willing to put your jobs in the hands of the federal government for them to sack you at a moments notice, I don't believe it is right for you to be able to sack a local government in the same way. They are elected into their positions by the people of the city and we should be the people to remove them, just as we honour and respect the state of Queensland when your positions are voted in. This will no doubt cost the city dearly, in the wisdom and experience of the elected counsellors as well as the financial impact that I am unsure who will cover? (State or local?)

I hope that you will consider the implications of the changes to the law that you are about to enact and humbly consider the people you are affecting through this.

Thanks

Matt Anstey  
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[REDACTED]