



25th July 2018

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

Cr David Martin
Ipswich City Council
Councillor for Division 7



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

Dear Secretary,

I am writing with regard to this bill.

I was elected to council late last year in October 2017 and have had the privilege of serving in public office for just over 9 months. I am extremely proud of the opportunity I have had to serve not just the people in Division 7, but the community of Ipswich. In that time I believe I have forged relationships with the business sector, schools, community groups, sporting clubs and of course the citizens of this great city. I consider it an absolute honour and privilege to serve in public office and I have cherished the opportunity I have had, despite the current crisis and I certainly treat this role with the utmost honour and respect and do not want to let the public down.

Since being elected as a Councillor, there has been the stigma of corruption and mismanagement from a time well before I started in Council. After I was elected we as a Council have enacted on the recommendations and findings of Gary Kellar in his independent report on governance and have introduced 19 new pieces of legislation to bring about tighter accountability and transparency. We have also moved to wind up all of the Council companies, barring ICP as there are still contractual commitments to honour.

I believe The Minister has not acknowledged the work of Council to establish good practice and appears to be dismissing an entire council on the grounds that we are dysfunctional. I believe our previous responses to his earlier show cause notices have shown that we are a successful Council and are performing very well and seeing record growth in our city. The last show cause indicated that the community had lost faith with Council, which I believe was based on a small percentage of people. I know it is impossible to keep everybody happy when you are in public office, however I believe I have the support of most of my constituents, and I was elected by them to represent them until 2020. As a democratically elected official, I have put my heart and soul into this role and am overwhelmed with sorrow at the prospect that I am being sacked for not only something I did not do, but for something that is alleged to have happened in an organisation before I started in my role and by people who did not work in the organisation when I started. Even the charges that have been laid since I started, again happened before I started my role in ICC.

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One of the first issues I looked at when I was elected was the issue of leasing our new building in the mall. I approached a number of Councillors, as well as the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and the CEO about the rationale and we then employed McGrath Nicholl to do an independent report on this and I voted in favour of their recommendation to terminate the previous agreement and look at owning our own building.

With regards travel, since being in Council I have visited Brisbane twice, and have not made claims for entertainment expenses or any functions other than my attendance at events as an ICC representative. I believe I have a good reputation and conduct myself with integrity and am saddened at the prospect of being sacked and the taint that will follow, and find this a miscarriage of justice.

However, putting all of that aside, I care very much for the greater good of this city and am passionate about good outcomes for our residents. If an administrator is to be put in place I would be very interested at having opportunity to work with the powers at be to have a smooth transition for the oversight of ICC. I believe I have gleaned some invaluable experience on local government matters and believe it would be a backward step for not only our City but also ICC if a brand new administration system was put in place with no experience in ICC operations and as such I would welcome a role as an advisor to administration.

I am totally politically independent and certainly not pushing any barrow except what I believe is best for Ipswich. I am also concerned for the great staff we have at ICC who have endured a lot of unwarranted scrutiny and innuendo from some poorly informed people in the community, and I think some familiarity with an administrator would help bring stability to our nearly 1 200 workers.

I trust that you will give my submission due consideration and I have faith that a good outcome can be reached without throwing the baby out with the bathwater. I would very much appreciate opportunity to speak to the committee on my submission.

I look forward to hearing a favourable response from you.

Regards,



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