

Your reference
Our reference
Contact Officer
Telephone

30 May 2018

The Honourable Stirling Hinchliffe
Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and
Minister for Multicultural Affairs
1 William Street
BRISBANE QLD 4002

Dear Minister *Stirling*

The Ipswich City Council above all things wants its community to have faith and trust in its actions and decisions. Under the current climate, the council understands the difficult situation the Minister finds himself in based on a number of, as yet unproven, charges levelled against a number of people associated with the council. As highlighted in the council's recent submission to the "Show Cause Notice", Councillors are less worried about their own jobs and futures, and more concerned about the impact on Ipswich residents, businesses and communities.

The submission provided clarity around the reasons why the Councillors should not, at this time, lose their position with the appointment of an administrator. But most importantly, it sets out a number of alternative strategies the Minister could pursue. These strategies could include allowing the Councillors to remain in place while an advisory panel is appointed to effectively run the council for a short period until the Minister is satisfied that the city has regained trust (Section 117 of the Local Government Act 2009).

At a meeting of Councillors on Tuesday 29 May 2018, it was discussed and unanimously agreed that council propose the following strategy for consideration by the Minister.

- That Council resolve at a special council meeting to be held on Tuesday 12 June that all 10 current Councillors immediately cease to undertake their decision making roles for a period of between three and six months. This would have the effect that no full Council meetings could be held during this period. However, practical details may need an appropriate regulation to be worked through to ensure that all statutory decision making responsibilities under the Local Government Act are complied with (e.g. approval to not hold monthly meetings, matters mandated by the Act to be decided only by resolution of the Council etc). Other matters dealt with under delegation should not be affected.



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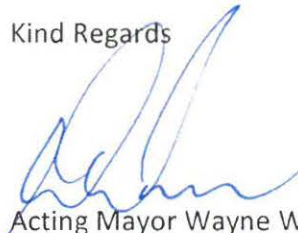
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30/07/2018 10:57am
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- The Councillors would continue to carry out the normal day-to-day local constituency duties of a Councillor, but would not make strategic or financially relevant decisions during this period. Any decisions involving these matters would need to be discussed with, and recommended by the panel of advisors, subject to approval by the Council's CEO who would be delegated the powers of council during this period, at the special meeting of 12 June.
- That the Minister appoint a highly skilled panel of advisors made up of experts with experience in local government, law, finance and corporate governance to oversee the strategic and policy direction of the council. Daily operations would continue as normal under the direction of the CEO and Executive Team. This expert panel would undertake a thorough review of the operations of the council over the following three to six months providing advice and support while reporting back to the Minister on any findings and/or recommendations for improvements.
- When the panel believes that the council is satisfactorily operating in accordance with the Act and community expectations, the duly elected Councillors will resume their previous roles and full responsibilities.

The view of the Councillors has always been that the appointment of an administrator would decimate the confidence of the city and would see commercial and social upheaval and uncertainty. As one of the fastest-growing regions within Australia this is not the time to allow the city to stagnate.

Based on this we believe we act for the vast majority of Ipswich residents when we ask the Minister to consider this proposal in good faith.

Kind Regards



Acting Mayor Wayne Wendt
City of Ipswich

30/5/14