



# Office of the Mayor

Redland City Council

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15 June 2018



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

Email: [egc@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:egc@parliament.qld.gov.au)

## Call for Submissions – Electoral Legislation (Political Donations) Amendment Bill 2018

Dear Committee,

I refer to the call for submissions on the Electoral Legislation (Political Donations) Amendment Bill 2018 (the Bill).

At the General Meeting of Council held on 25 October 2017, Council resolved to make a submission on the Local Government (Implementing Belcarra) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017, which included our position on political donations. We would like to reiterate our position through a submission on the Electoral Legislation (Political Donations) Amendment Bill 2018 (the Bill).

The Redland City Council serves a community of approximately 150,000 coastal residents, across six islands and the mainland about 35 minutes from Brisbane. Council supports and commends the introduction of the Bill to strengthen government transparency and integrity.

Of note, the Council resolved on 4 November 2015 to write to the State Government requesting an investigation into legislative provisions that prohibit all political donations for government campaigns and for all candidates [including local government] to be publically funded as part of the *Electoral Act 1992*.

Council makes the following comments to the Bill:

1. To extend the prohibition of political donations from developers to include all corporate donations and potential lobby groups and to adopt a public funding model of candidates, similar to that regulated under the *Electoral Act 1992* so as to remove the perception of third party funded political decisions.
2. To extend the definition of political donations and registrable gifts and benefits under *Schedule 5* of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* to both be deemed as a material personal interest requiring effected councillors to remove themselves from statutory meetings and influence of a government decision, activity or service.
3. To extend the real time disclosure requirements within the *Local Government Electoral Act 2011* to include third party donors, so that candidates, groups of candidates, agents of candidates and third party donors are treated equally to disclose their interests as required by the Act.

[2]

**Conclusion**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission on the Bill. Redland City Council looks forward to the proposed amendments being made and working with the State Government in partnership to continue to uphold the transparency and accountability of local government in Queensland.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Williams".

Mayor Karen Williams  
**Redland City Council**