

15<sup>th</sup> June 2018

**Southern Downs**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

## Submission

### Electoral Legislation (Political Donations) Amendment Bill

The Southern Downs Regional Council supports the Electoral Legislation (Political Donations) Amendment Bill 2018, put forward by the Economics and Governance Committee to ban political donations from for-profit corporate donors.

Council understand that the Bill objectives are to prohibit the making of political donations by **for-profit** corporations to candidates in State or Local Government elections, groups of candidates in Local Government elections, third parties, political parties, Councillors and Members of State Parliament.

However, Council would question why this does not incorporate **not-for-profit organisations**, as explained in:

**Clause 6 Insertion of new pt 11, div 8, sdiv 5**

*New section 280 (Definition for subdivision) provides that 'prohibited corporate donor' means a company registered under the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) or an industry representative organisation a majority of whose members are companies registered under the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth), but does **not include charities, not-for-profit organisations, or employee and employer organisations** under State or Federal industrial relations legislation.*

The Southern Downs Regional Council supports the Policy Objectives put forward and agrees with observations made in the Belcarra Report, and is conscious of the need to enhance the reputations of local governments.

Council also believes that anything that removes opportunities to influence responsible decision making or impact on the reputation of local government should be considered as best practice in how local governments operate and rate payers funds are allocated. Any mechanisms that diminish this level of risk and perceived conflicts of interest or corruption should be fully supported.

Yours faithfully,

David Keenan  
**Chief Executive Officer**

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