

17 May 2019



The Honourable Stirling Hinchliffe MP  
Minister for Local Government,  
Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs

Submissions lodged via email: [lqreforms@dlqarma.qld.gov.au](mailto:lqreforms@dlqarma.qld.gov.au)

Dear Minister

### Submissions – Implementing Stage 2 of Belcarra

As Mayor of the Cassowary Coast Regional Council (CCRC), I am writing to you regarding the *Local Government Electoral (Implementing Stage 2 of Belcarra) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019* (The Bill) and proposed changes to associated Regulations.

As Council, we expect that a finite synopsis of The Bill and associated Regulations would be undertaken by all interested parties and Councils.

Having met with you on several occasions and having listened carefully to your words around and in relation to The Bill, I have formed the view that your keystone point that you wish to achieve is the installation of a more transparent Local Government and strengthened relationships between State and Local Government. I believe there has been insufficient time for the sector to carefully analyse the implications of The Bill and existing changes emanating from Stage 1 of Belcarra amendments. In contemplation of the unintended consequence that invariably flows from change, I believe we can accept that by accelerating the rate of change that has occurred to date, transparency itself is being challenged. It would be prudent and necessary to maintain the relationship between the Local and State Government and, in the interest of good governance, further time should be allowed to better consider The Bill and peripheral matters.

I am one of the many Mayors that have greeted the changes to date and have ensured our continued support for the foundation of our relationship with State Government initiatives, such as Works for Queensland. I believe that with the effluxion of time, should we not undertake a better assessment of The Bill and unintended consequences, high quality candidates will be reluctant to take on the mantle of Councillors and instead only those willing to go through a minimalist role, married to mediocrity and only expressing risk averse views will venture into Local Government, losing the community's voice in decision making at that level.

Please contact the writer should you have any queries, via email to [REDACTED] or via telephone on [REDACTED].

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John Kremastos', written in a cursive style.

**Cr John Kremastos**  
**MAYOR**  
**CASSOWARY COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL**