

From:
To: [EGC](#)
Subject: Local Government (Councillor Complaints) and Other Legislation Amendments Bill 2018
Date: Monday, 5 March 2018 4:33:10 PM

Committee Secretary
Economics & Governments Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane 4000

Dear Secretary,

Have read the Explanatory Notes on the LGOLA Bill 2018. I concur with most of the intent of the Bill.

I wish to question why the Bill only makes reference to Councillors

There is no mention of the disciplining of Mayors anywhere in the Bill.

This is strange seeing that two Mayors have been sacked for corruption and others are under CCC investigation.

Misconduct Pages 14 & 15 Explanatory Notes --- The LGA Section 150R. Section 170R (The mayor may give direction to the Local Government CEO or senior executive.

But no councillor including the mayor, may give a direction to any other local government employee.)

The mayor of the City of Gold Coast has Chief of Staff who does the Mayors bidding with vigour.

What Local Government Officer is going to report the Mayor or go up against his Chief of Staff ?

The Mayor being chair of council meetings has the choice of whether a councillor is out of order at a meeting.

Declaring a councillor out of order, can stop a debate that the mayor does not want to continue. And this happens regularly on the Gold Coast.

Under the Partners in Government Agreement 2015 not addressed here, a Mayor has too much control and can stifle rigorous debate in council meetings.

Part 3-- Principles & Part 4 – Roles & Responsibilities, need to be revamped and the State Government to take some power back for the LGAQ.

Under the Newman / Seeney Government too much power was vested in the hands of those not capable of handling it conscientiously.

Again, there is no remedy for a obstructive Mayor or Chief of Staff in this legislation.

Under New Section 150AR a councillor who is out of favour, not of the same political persuasion as the mayor, or totally against a development proposal could be penalised for objecting strenuously.

Page 18 Explanatory Notes. Agree with recommendation 5.1

Page 18 .Explanatory Notes. Recommendation 5.4 Any wording should be planned diligently, as most members of the LGAQ & LGMA are of the LNP persuasion, they are not likely to let the win under Newman go lightly

The proposed new code of conduct must not be biased in any way for the residents of an electorate to be pawns in a political game within local government.

See page 34 & 35 Explanatory Notes re Local Government Liaison Group. This section again does not mention unsuitable conduct of mayors. Has this been overlooked?

Under previous Local Government Acts, all elected were councillors, and the mayor or chair was selected by the rest of the councillors. At present the mayor is elected as a separate entity.

Where are the recommendations on the way a mayor should conduct, or act, at council meetings, and as the figure head of the shire, town or city?

Those are my thoughts, and my submission to the Local Government (Councillor Complaints)and Other Legislation Amendments Bill 2018

Thank you for the opportunity to put forward my view of the legislation.

Sincerely

John Burns

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