



Your ref:
Our ref: 11791

IN-CONFIDENCE

23 March 2018

Mr L Power MP
Chair
Economics and Governance Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Power

Inquiry submission – Local Government Electoral (Implementing Stage 1 of Belcarra) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the Local Government Electoral (Implementing Stage 1 of Belcarra) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018.

I support the recommendations made by the Crime and Corruption Commission in their Belcarra report and this subsequent Bill to implement these recommendations.

Any recommendations for change that focus on reinforcing transparency, integrity and increasing public confidence in the system of government is positive.

The importance of transparency and the risk of conflicts of interest has also been raised in my reports to parliament. Reports that you may be interested in include:

- Report 6: 2017-18 Fraud risk management
- Report 13: 2017-18 Local government entities: 2016-17 results of financial audits.

My report to Parliament on Local government entities (Report 13: 2017-18) tabled in March 2018 recommends establishing appropriate mechanisms to manage conflicts of interest regarding controlled entities of councils. Councils often appoint councillors or senior executives to their companies' boards and they need to have appropriate mechanisms to manage the inherent conflicts of interest between the council's own activities and those of its controlled entities.

To improve the transparency of council-controlled entities, my Local Government report also recommends that it be mandated that the financial statements of controlled entities be made publicly available.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your Committee Secretary contact

[Redacted] or [Redacted] or [Redacted]

Yours sincerely

Brendan Worrall
Auditor-General