

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [EGC](#)  
**Subject:** Local Government Electoral (Implementing Stage 1 of Belcarra) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018.- Enquiry  
**Date:** Friday, 23 March 2018 10:54:28 AM

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John Woodlock

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

Dear Committee Secretary

I congratulate the Government for introducing the Local Government Electoral (Implementing Stage 1 of Belcarra) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018.

However, I consider significant new provisions are needed in this Bill to reduce incentives which increase corruption risks in Qld, including:

- a cap on expenditure by candidates and other parties for elections (Belcarra Report Recommendation 1) which will effectively stop the constant hunt for donations to support election promotional work and for donors to find ways around the rules. This is in place in NSW currently;
- providing for a 'betterment tax' payable to the government where land zoning benefits a property developer in order to reduce the incentive in existence to change zoning to benefit particular developers, and to compensate the community adequately in exchange for the windfall to the developer due to the change in planning regulation; and
- addressing the revolving door between industry and government, which can lead to inside relationships being used to the benefit of the private sector without due regard being given to the public interest. While Queensland has comparatively strong restrictions around when a senior public servant/Minister can work as a lobbyist, our framework could be further strengthened by:
  - improving the definition of 'lobbyist', for example to include acting for even non-profit entities that represent private industry, such as the Queensland Resource Council; and
  - better enforcing existing limitations on lobbyists moving between

government and the private sector.

- a ban on all corporate donations, including from mining companies, the tobacco industry etc be introduced through the Bill, to prevent the loopholes provided by limiting the ban to one narrowly defined sector. Operation Spicer demonstrated the strong need for enforcement of the ban as well, to ensure it is effective at achieving its aim.

I support the further provisions increasing regulation and clarity of process around conflicts of interest and material personal interests, as outlined in the explanatory notes:

- ‘prescribe additional information to be provided by a councillor when informing a meeting of a real or perceived conflict of interest or a material personal interest in a matter other than an ordinary business matter
- require any councillor at a meeting who believes or suspects on reasonable grounds that another councillor at the meeting has a real or perceived conflict of interest or a material personal interest in a matter other than an ordinary business matter to inform the person who is presiding at the meeting of the councillor’s belief of suspicion
- strengthen penalties for councillors who fail to comply with their obligations
- provide that it is an offence for a councillor who has a material personal interest or a real or perceived conflict of interest in a matter other than an ordinary business matter to influence or attempt to influence any vote by another councillor or any decision by a council employee or contractor in relation to the matter’

Yours sincerely

John Woodlock

23 March 2018