



25 October, 2017

Contact: [REDACTED]  
General Counsel [REDACTED]

Ms Emily Booth  
Acting Committee Secretary  
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

**SUBMISSION LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IMPLEMENTING BELCARRA) AND OTHER  
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2017**

Dear Ms Booth,

I refer to the call for submissions on the Local Government (Implementing Belcarra) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 (the Bill).

On 25 October 2017 the Redland City Council resolved by Special Meeting to make this submission on the Bill.

The Redland City Council serves a community of approximately 150,000 coastal residents, across six islands and the mainland about 35 minutes from Brisbane. Council supports and commends the Government's introduction of the Bill to strengthen government transparency and integrity.

Of note the Council resolved on 4 November 2015 to write to the State Government requesting an investigation into legislative provisions that prohibit all political donations for government campaigns and for all candidates [including local government] to be publically funded as part of the *Electoral Act 1992*.

Council makes the following comments to the Bill:

1. To extend the Bill to cover all 31 recommendations in the Belcarra Report; alternatively a timeframe for such assessment and extension to occur in a future Bill, with provisions for resourcing the Electoral Commission, Integrity Commissioner and the Department of Infrastructure Local Government and Planning to fully implement the report findings.
2. To extend the prohibition of political donations from developers to include all corporate donations and potential lobby groups and to adopt a public funding model of candidates, similar to that regulated under the *Electoral Act 1992* so as to remove the perception of third party funded political decisions.

3. To extend the personal interests and influence provisions beyond the statutory meeting regime under the *Local Government Act 2009* to include any meeting, workshop or event which the subject councillor may have a personal interest and ability as a councillor to influence a government decision, activity or service.
4. To extend the definition of political donations to include registrable gifts and benefits under *Schedule 5* of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* to both be deemed as a material personal interest requiring effected councillors to remove themselves from statutory meetings and influence of a government decision, activity or service.
5. To extend the real time disclosure requirements within the *Local Government Electoral Act 2011* to include third party donors, so that candidates, groups of candidates, agents of candidates and third party donors are treated equally to disclose their interests as required by the Act.

## Conclusion

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission on the Bill. Redland City Council looks forward to the proposed amendments being made and working with the state government in partnership to continue to uphold the transparency and accountability of local government in Queensland.

Yours faithfully



Andrew Chesterman  
**Chief Executive Officer**