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19 October 2015

Ms D Jeffrey  
Research Director  
Finance and Administration Committee  
Queensland Parliament  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Ms Jeffrey

**General inquiry into the introduction of four-year terms for the Queensland Parliament**

Thank you for the opportunity to consider and comment on the general inquiry by the Finance and Administration Committee into the introduction of four-year terms for the Queensland Parliament.

Council considers that decisions relevant to the issue of fixed or extended terms for State Parliament are a matter for the State Government to decide and the Council has no particular view on the matter.

However, if it is decided to proceed with four-year fixed terms, the timing of the State Electoral cycle becomes an issue. Council's view is that the State Election should be 'out of cycle' with Queensland local government terms.

Ideally, State and local government elections should occur two years after each other.

Council's position on this matter is derived from its experience of the 2012 Local Government Elections which were held only five weeks after the 2012 Queensland State Election. Confusion generated by the differing legislative responsibilities of State and local government, the different policies, visions and strategies of the two levels of government, as well as the inconsistency between existing State and local government electoral laws, caused problems for both jurisdictions.

Council does not intend to comment on the other issues raised in the paper, but thank you to the Committee for the opportunity to do so.

Yours sincerely

Colin Jensen  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**