



Your ref:  
Our ref:

22 September 2014

The Research Director  
Finance and Administration Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane Qld 4000

**RECEIVED**  
**23 Sep 2014**  
Finance and  
Administration Committee

Dear Director

**Queensland Plan Bill 2014 - submission to Committee**

I write in response to the recent call for submissions concerning the Queensland Plan Bill 2014. For the Committee's information, I was not consulted on the drafting of the Bill.

As the Committee will be aware, the Queensland Ombudsman is an officer of the Parliament, with specific operational separation from the executive arm of government. The *Ombudsman Act 2001* provides specific provisions to prohibit persons from directing me in how my office will function or how the work of the office is undertaken.

Therefore, I am concerned that certain provisions in the Queensland Plan Bill 2014 are in conflict with the *Ombudsman Act 2001* and would, if enacted, have the potential to diminish the independence of my Office. I am specifically concerned about Parts 3 and 4 of the Bill.

Given my functions under the *Ombudsman Act 2001*, I submit that it would be appropriate for my Office to be excluded from the arrangements contemplated by Parts 3 and 4 of the Bill. This may be achieved by inserting a specific provision within the Bill to exclude both the position of Ombudsman and the office from the application of the Bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission.

Yours faithfully

  
Phil Clarke  
Queensland Ombudsman