

Research Director

Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee

Parliament House, George street Brisbane QLD 4000

10th of January 2017

Submission for Local Government Electoral (transparency and Accountability in Local Government) and other legislation Amendment bill 2016

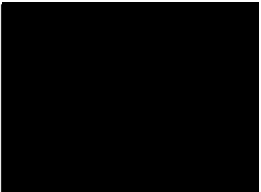
This submission is made without Prejudice:

I refer to the Bill tabled for consideration and wish to submit my opinions for consideration.

1. Local government in regional areas like the Redlands Queensland are primarily made up of local candidates who claim to be independent and under the Local Government act, are meant to represent the city as a whole without prejudice or favour.
2. For far too long the influence of property developers has overshadowed outcomes of elections through monetary and gift in kind donations, that have an effect of showing favour to any one particular candidate, which sadly results in building outcomes that do not meet community expectations.
3. The financial resources brought to bear on an election campaign from developers, combined with developer social media and other societal connections such as clubs i.e. Rotary, shows a complete disregard for the process of democracy and prompts the expenditure of resources on a candidate that is allegedly politically and industry independent.
4. Residents more so than ever are seeking open and honest policy from their elected representatives and by having legislation that convinces community's that an over extension of building is required on small lots, without first allowing State Government to supply the infrastructure money required to support such growth is incredibly irresponsible.
5. Developers that have provided financial resources to particular candidates during an election in my view have completely mitigated any integrity around their position if elected, causing a conflict of interest on community decisions that arise for building.
6. Donations are not collected in a regional area like the Redlands by a political party for accountability, the moneys received are easily declared for certain expenditures, however it would be my opinion that candidates alleging to be independent would be holding money personally. This opens a perception of corruption.

7. On the note of political parties in local government, while it is accepted practice in large councils, regional councils need to be comprised of local community members without connection or favour to a political party.
8. On the matter of building certification it is my view that councils irrespective of cost employ building certifiers to ensure responsible developments.
9. Having the certifiers in place means limiting future issues that arise with compliance issues, which ultimately cause expenditure to councils and rate payers.
10. In closing I would like to see the abolishment of donations from developers to independent regional councillors who wield responsibility on local development, so policy is adhered to.

Respectfully



Paul Golle