

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee](#)
Subject: Submission concerning the Local Government Reform Bill
Date: Tuesday, 24 January 2017 9:54:42 AM

To the Research Director
Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane

Please accept the following submission to the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee.

In relation to the *Local Government Electoral Reform Bill* currently before the Queensland Parliament and the recommendations of the Crime and Corruption Commission report *Transparency and Accountability in Local Government*, we request your Committee's consideration of the following submission.

[1] In respect of CCC report Recommendation 4 : *That the Government consider amendment to disclosure requirements in the Local Government Electoral Act 2011 and the Local Government Act 2009 to align the threshold obligations for reporting*, we urge that the donation threshold for individual candidates should remain at \$200 and that for third parties the donation threshold for declaration should again be \$200. We make this request in the interests of greater transparency and accountability, and because these interests are in line with public expectations.

[2] It is our view that the Government should fully adopt CCC Recommendation 5: *That the Government expand the regulation of donations to include the expenditure of donations and a requirement to account for unspent donations by either only using the funds for campaign purposes or transferring them to a registered charity*. Transparency and accountability would be enhanced if, at the end of the relevant donation disclosure period, candidates were required (a) to submit a return in relation to the expenditure of the donated funds and (b) maintain any unspent funds in a dedicated account until the candidate runs for the next election or transfer the funds to a registered charity. In simple fiduciary terms, a mandatory expenditure return is the logical corollary of a mandatory donation declaration. It is difficult to see how, in respect of the same funds and for the same purpose of transparency and accountability, a donation declaration can be in the public interest while an expenditure declaration is excluded. We suspect that public scrutiny would readily interpret this as tantamount to giving with one hand and removing with the other.

[3] We believe that CCC report Recommendation 6: *That the Government strengthen the obligation upon councillors, chief executive officers and senior executive employees (relevant persons) to declare funds, gifts or benefits provided to another entity which could*

be perceived to provide the relevant person with a benefit is consistent with a level of transparency and accountability that the public would expect, and that the Government's legislation should include it.

David and Susan Frampton

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