

Submission No. 5

11.1.1

27 April 2015

27 April 2015

Officer: Victoria Nelson
Direct telephone: 07 5441 8235
Response address: Locked Bag 72, SCMC QLD 4560

The Hon. Jim Pearce MP
Infrastructure, Planning &
Natural Resources Committee
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000
Email: ipnrc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Chair

Re: Submission – Local Government and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015

Thank you for providing Sunshine Coast Council with the opportunity to make submission to the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee on the *Local Government and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015* (the Bill).

Sunshine Coast Council supports the Bill's amendments to the *Local Government Electoral Act 2011* which removes the mandate for a local government CEO to be the returning officer for a local government election. We believe the Bill's objective to remove the potential for a conflict of interest will be achieved. Consistency for electors by ensuring local, state and federal elections are run to the same standards will also likely be achieved.

The exception which allows the Electoral Commission of Queensland to appoint a local government CEO as returning officer in circumstances where the CEO is the only person reasonably available and with the necessary experience within the community is also supported.

Sunshine Coast Council makes no comment on the proposed amendments to the *Heavy Vehicle National Law Act 2012* or to the *Queensland Reconstruction Authority Act 2011*.

Yours sincerely



Ray Turner
Acting Chief Executive Officer