

Electoral Laws (Restoring Electoral Fairness) Amendment Bill 2025

Submission No: 067
Submission By: The Integrity Standard
Publication: Making the submission and your organisation name public

Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee

Submission on the Electoral Laws (Restoring Electoral Fairness) Amendment Bill 2025

Submitter Name:Nicole Blachut
Organization (if any):The Integrity Standard (as Founder and CEO, with full organizational approval)

Date:02/01/2026
Confidentiality Request:Feel free to use my name and utilize the business name (The Integrity Standard).

Executive Summary

Purpose of Submission
Electoral reform must not only restore procedural fairness but actively protect communities, essential services, and democratic integrity. This submission proposes amendments to ensure Queensland elections are fair, transparent, and accountable — particularly for the most vulnerable.

Key Principles

1. Protection of Vulnerable Communities
 - Elderly, disabled, mental health patients, and emergency service providers safeguarded.
 - Political decisions must not harm public hospitals, healthcare, or mental health systems.
2. Land Rights & Community Representation
 - Voting and enrolment access maintained for communities affected by land, housing, or cultural disruptions.
 - Community impact statements and disclosure of political interests in development projects required.
3. Environmental & Entity Accountability
 - Public or private entities affecting land, environment, housing, or community wellbeing must disclose donations, lobbying, and financial interests.
 - Mechanisms for community review of harm must exist.
4. Transparency & Anti-Corruption
 - Strengthened donation disclosure, blind trusts, post-election verification, and enforcement.
 - Integrity Audit Teams to cross-check political influence against public projects.
5. Expanded Democratic Participation
 - Remove barriers to voting and candidacy, including for First Nations, regional, and marginalized communities.
 - Ensure independent candidates have fair access to resources and visibility.

Expected Outcomes

- Safeguard essential services and vulnerable populations
- Protect land, cultural heritage, and environmental integrity
- Prevent undue influence from entities and developers
- Increase trust, transparency, and accountability in elections
- Enable equitable democratic participation for all Queenslanders

Conclusion

Electoral fairness must go beyond procedure — it must protect people, communities, and our environment from abuse or neglect. These amendments create a Queensland electoral system that is fair, integrity-driven, transparent, and inclusive.

Full Submission

1. Introduction

I welcome the intention of the Electoral Laws (Restoring Electoral Fairness) Amendment Bill 2025.

Electoral reform is vital, but true integrity extends beyond technical compliance — it must protect communities, essential services, and democratic participation, while holding those who influence policy accountable.

I created the Integrity Standard to ensure government operates transparently, responsibly, and fairly. I am committed to seeing these principles embedded in Queensland law. I will not tolerate anything less.

2. Key Principles

Electoral fairness is inseparable from:

- Protection of vulnerable populations: elderly, disabled, mental health patients, emergency service providers
- Maintenance of healthcare and mental health systems
- Safeguarding land, housing, and cultural rights, especially for First Nations and regional communities
- Accountability of any public or private entity that impacts land, environment, or community wellbeing
- Transparency and anti-corruption, ensuring political influence does not override the public interest

3. Proposed Integrity-Focused Amendments

These build on the bill's clauses (e.g., donation caps in section 14, developer bans in sections 17/32–35, prisoner voting in sections 4–7/26–31/45–46) to address current Australian challenges like economic pressures, cyber/foreign threats, and identity strengthening through reconciliation.

A. Protection of Essential Services & Vulnerable Communities

- Introduce an Integrity Impact Obligation for all major electoral, funding, and political decisions
- Independent public reporting on impacts to hospitals, mental health, aged care, disability services, and emergency services
- Add safeguards against external threats (e.g., cyber attacks on voting systems or foreign interference in campaigns) via ECQ-ASIO collaboration.

B. Land Rights & Community Representation

- Protect electoral access for communities affected by land, housing, or cultural decisions
- Accessible voting/enrolment for First Nations, rural, and regional communities
- Disclosure of political donations and financial interests in land, infrastructure, or resource projects
- Community impact statements for major land decisions, including petition-driven referendums on issues like migration or development.

C. Environmental & Entity Accountability

- Statutory obligations on any entity materially affecting land, environment, housing, or community wellbeing
- Mandatory disclosure of donations, lobbying, financial interests
- Independent community impact reporting
- Mechanisms for affected communities to trigger formal review processes, with bans on foreign-linked entities to protect against sabotage.

D. Anti-Corruption & Transparency

- Strengthened political donation and lobbying rules
- Blind trusts, post-election verification, and enforcement
- Integrity Audit Teams cross-checking political influence against public projects
- Ban all foreign donations; cap politician salaries at \$100,000 with bonuses tied to state success (e.g., economic relief rebates for households amid cost pressures).

E. Expanded Democratic Participation

- Remove barriers to voting and candidacy (e.g., affirm prisoner rights for civic responsibility; voluntary myGov app voting with biometric security)
- Ensure fair access for marginalized, regional, and First Nations communities
- Provide state-funded support to independent candidates for equitable campaign participation, including education on Australian values and heritage.

These amendments would:

- Protect essential services, vulnerable communities, and emergency responders
- Safeguard land, environment, and cultural rights
- Enhance transparency, accountability, and anti-corruption
- Restore trust in Queensland's democratic institutions

Electoral fairness must extend beyond procedure — it must protect the people it exists to serve. I urge the Committee to adopt these amendments to ensure Queensland democracy works for everyone.

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Nicole Blachut

