



21 December 2015

The Research Director  
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee  
Parliament House  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Sir / Madam

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission into the Committee's Review of the Crime and Corruption Amendment Bill 2015.

The Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) supports the reinstatement of the corruption prevention and research functions of the Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC), as proposed by the Bill. I would note that a number of submissions to the Review of the CCC currently conducted by the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee (PCCC), including from local governments, called for the reinstatement of these functions.

The LGAQ is, however, opposed to the proposed amendment to allow anonymous complaints about corruption to be made to the CCC, by removing the requirement for complaints to be made by way of a statutory declaration. The LGAQ believes that this will encourage frivolous and vexatious complaints in relation to local government, particularly at politically sensitive times such as the lead up to a council election. The LGAQ believes that the *exceptional circumstances* provisions contained within section 36(3) of the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001* provide an individual with the appropriate protections and safeguards. Notwithstanding, the LGAQ and Queensland councils take matters of corruption very seriously and in no way wish to discourage complaints about corruption. Any complainant who believes their allegation has merit should have no issue in completing a statutory declaration which is a relatively straightforward process.

I would draw your attention to the fact that I made this point in my testimony at the 9 November 2015 hearing of the PCCC on the Review of the CCC (page 12 of the transcript) which provides greater context for the matters discussed above.

The LGAQ urges the Committee, therefore, to recommend that the requirement for complaints to be made by way of a statutory declaration be maintained.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'GREG HALLAM', written over a horizontal line.

GREG HALLAM PSM  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER