

NOTICE OF SUBMISSION

TO: Acting Committee Secretary
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Submitter details

*Full name: President, EDV Residents Association

*Postal address

Suburb/Town:

State:Qld

Postcode:

*Signature:

Johanne Wright

*Date: 26 October 2017

Details of submission:

Our organisation represents some 2,000 members and supporters who live in the suburbs of Eumundi, Doonan, Verrierdale and Weyba Downs. This area is in the northern part of the Sunshine Coast Regional Council LGA and part of the suburb of Doonan is within the Noosa Council LGA. Our organisation is a member of the Local Government Reform Association of Qld as we believe that there are a wide range of issues associated with Local Government in Queensland that require ongoing and regular community scrutiny.

We were very pleased to see that a formal review of some specific concerns was instituted and we submit this rather quick and simple response to the Committee in response to your request for feedback.

From the outset we wish to commend the Committee and indicate that we support the entirety of the recommendations made.

1. Our organisation particularly supports banning donations by entities with development aspirations to either local government candidates or incumbents, as we perceive that this compromises the decision making of Councils even when there is no direct evidence of corruption. The larger Council in particular with a very major development agenda, such as the Sunshine Coast Council is by the very nature of its strategic vision and plan, more likely to support a development event when the community object.
2. We want to see candidates campaign funds capped to \$15,000 for Mayoral candidates and \$5,000 for Councillor Candidates. This could lead to reform in and of itself and opens the door to having a more level playing field for those candidates with no major backers
3. Our organisation strongly supports the CCC recommended legislative reform regarding conflict of interest. We would go a step further and suggest that Councils set up protocols for the other Councillors that are very stringent so other councillors in the room deciding if a councillor has a conflict of interest have a high bar on which to make the decision. Under no circumstances should individual councillors to decide for themselves.
4. Our organisation supports full disclosure of all donations made to any candidate or incumbent right up to the date of any election.
5. Finally we are very committed to open and transparent governance and would recommend that the open decision making processes adopted by Councils such as Noosa Council should be the norm, rather than what now happens at the Sunshine Coast Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a comment