

From: [kees hulsman](#)
To: [Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee](#)
Subject: submission Legal Affairs Committee
Date: Thursday, 26 October 2017 2:10:34 PM
Attachments: [The policy objectives of the proposed new laws are to.docx](#)

Attached is my submission to the Legal Affairs Committee on improving transparency and integrity in Local and state Government.

yours sincerely
Kees Hulsman

The policy objectives of the proposed new laws are to:

- Reinforce integrity and minimise corruption risk that political donations from property developers has potential to cause at both a state and local government level
- Improve transparency and accountability in state and local government
- Strengthen the legislative requirements that regulate how a councillor must deal with a real or perceived conflict of interest or a material personal interest.

Political donations from anyone or company which has or will have a business proposal come before council for approval should be subject to these provisions in order to minimise corruption and build integrity within government. If Qld adopts the same definition as NSW has done for a property developer too many who bring proposals, which affect their business, before council will be excluded. Use a definition that includes businesses that build and run the facility, not simply those that build and then sell it.

Use a definition that gets rid of the problem completely and not partly which will cause problems later and then require further changes to the legislation.

To improve the **transparency and accountability** in government, the practice of having the debates on the merits of specific proposals and the shortcomings should be in public and not workshops closed to general public. Closed workshops where pros and cons of various proposals are discussed even when minuted are difficult to access because FOI requests are slow in being decided upon.

Democracy requires the participants to have the best information available and closed meetings with ratepayers and voters not having access to does not facilitate democracy. One cannot truly evaluate the decisions without access to such information.

What is the penalty for non-compliance? The penalty should be sufficient to deter the offender to not offender again. For example, in addition to a financial penalty there should be a system like we have on our driver's licence. Commit say 2 or 3 offences depending on how severe they are the offender loses his/her position on council and is banned from seeking re-election until the period of suspension is over.

- How will the law be enforced?