



**Local Government, Small Business and
Customer Service Committee**
**Local Government (Empowering Councils) and
Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025**

Friday, 16 January 2026

9:30am – 12:10pm

Parliamentary Annexe, Brisbane

Committee Room 2, Level 3

Via teleconference / videoconference (as required)

Time	Witness	Submission
9:30am – 9:50am	Local Government Association of Queensland <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ms Alison Smith, Chief Executive Officer (via videoconference)Ms Sarah Vogler, Head of AdvocacyMs Kim Driver, Manager - Governance & Advisory Services	<u>34</u>
9:50am – 10:10am	Office of the Independent Assessor <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mr Charles Kohn, Acting Independent AssessorMr Nicholas Finn, Acting Deputy Independent AssessorMr Todd Saunders, Director, Media and Engagement	<u>19</u>
10:10am – 10:30am	Local Government Managers Australia <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ms Peta Irvine, Chief Executive Officer	<u>7</u>
10:30am – 10:50am	Electoral Commission of Queensland <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mr Wade Lewis, Assistant Electoral CommissionerMr Matthew Thurlby, Director Funding, Disclosure & Compliance	<u>18</u>
10:50am – 11:10am	Mayor Teresa Harding, City of Ipswich	<u>51</u>

Time	Witness	Submission
11:10am – 11:30am	Mareeba Shire Council (via videoconference) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor Cr Angela Toppin AM • Mr Peter Franks, Chief Executive Officer 	<u>37</u>
11:30am – 11:50am	Maranoa Regional Council (via videoconference) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cr Johanne Hancock 	<u>44</u>
11:50am – 12:10pm	Balonne Shire Council (via videoconference) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor Samantha O'Toole • Mrs Michelle Clarke, Chief Executive Officer 	<u>30</u>

Public Hearing:

This hearing will be broadcast live on [Parliament TV](#), and available for viewing afterwards from the Committee's Parliament.TV Archive. A transcript of the proceedings will also be published in due course.

Those present for the proceedings are advised that they may be in photos taken by Parliamentary Service staff for purposes including posting on the Parliament's website or social media sites. The Queensland Parliamentary Service is committed to protecting the images collected for this purpose in accordance with the *Information Privacy Act 2009*.