

Local Government (Empowering Councils) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025

Submission No: 006

Submission By: Chris Drake

Publication: Making the submission and your name public

This submission addresses the objectives of the Bill "promote good governance and decision-making". It is brief, because in my vast experience, nobody reads these submissions, and all "negative" ones get censored anyhow. Be sure to read to the end, which is the most important part.

About a year ago, Noosa Council was scammed in a business-email-compromise attack and lost \$ millions in resident monies. Many other councils regularly also succumb - including Gold Coast and Brisbane. Undoubtedly many more never reveal when they're victims.

The council covered up this scam for many months, eventually issuing public statements which were demonstrably false.

They then held a meeting which was broadcast online, during which it was repeatedly demonstrated that the aforementioned statements were untrue.

The meeting itself was utterly astonishing - it was like they forgot it was being live-streamed! The vast majority was taken up with their collusion about how to ensure that the facts behind the incident are never revealed to the public, and their collaboration about how to "get all their lies straight". They ACTIVELY rejected a motion to take steps to help prevent future incidents, deciding instead on a process of deception and coverup (advanced-plans for how to refuse to reveal any more information in future).

The governance policy that was violated when the original monies were lost, happens to be the same policy under which the kinds of contraventions revealed at the meeting can also be reported - so I followed procedure to report that illegal behaviour.

Part of their press release mentioned the council "strengthen compliance" with this policy - so this was both an opportunity to report wrongdoing, AS WELL as an opportunity to test whether or not their compliance with this policy has in fact been improved.

I had to ask three times in total, before they recorded my complaint - their compliance with this policy was utterly hopeless, and their handling of this issue a total disgrace. In short - nearly every aspect of their press release about this incident, including their claims of improving their procedures, has been proven completely false.

Years prior to the fraud, the council participated in a survey which found them highly susceptible to these kinds of scams, and they committed to improving their procedure; which they clearly have never done, since they were defrauded, and they're not still not processing complaints under that same procedure either.

THIS IS THE PROBLEM

=> "promote good governance and decision-making"

There is NO WORKING MECHANISM that exists anywhere in QLD where "good governance and decision-making" is either measured or enforced, and NOTHING WHATSOEVER in relation to consequences for those who refuse or fail, nor those who engage in misconduct to cover-up and deceive.

Every possibly avenue for solving the above local government programs are "fake" (toothless bodies who will never investigate anyhow).

I have hundreds of pages of supporting evidence if you want names and roles or need to verify the voracity of all my statements, including the preceding sentence. Please ask if you want to try and find a way to fix this.

PLEASE MAKE THIS SUBMISSION PUBLIC. PLEASE DO NOT CENSOR THIS SUBMISSION.