

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

Submission No: 017

Submission By: Amy Eden

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Mayor

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OUR REF: #7789633

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The Honourable James Lister

Chairperson - Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee
Online Submission

Dear Sir

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission on the proposed legislation. While I am the elected Mayor of Cairns Regional Council, I make this submission in my own right.

I am supportive of the amendments in their current form and look forward to their implementation.

I am particularly supportive of the following elements.

1. Inclusion of the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor or Committee Chair on recruitment panels for senior executives.

Senior executives hold significant responsibility for the direction and performance of a council. Including elected representatives on recruitment panels strengthens accountability and improves recruitment outcomes by ensuring alignment between strategic direction, leadership capability and community expectations.

2. Reinforcing that the Mayor is the official spokesperson of the council.

Mayors are elected directly by their communities and carry the mandate to represent the council publicly. It is important that this role cannot be diminished through internal policy settings or procedural workarounds.

3. Clarifying that Mayors are the default chair of Ordinary and Special Meetings.

The community expects the Mayor they elected to preside over formal council meetings. This amendment strengthens transparency and ensures that internal processes cannot be used to shift or dilute this responsibility.

If further context would be of assistance, I am happy to provide it.

Yours faithfully



Cr Amy Eden
Mayor