

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

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Since being elected as a Councillor in March 2024, I have witnessed and experienced behaviour from within the council, including senior executives, that can be best described as undermining the Mayor and any councillor who speaks up on the behalf of their constituents or the people of the region. These behaviours have included erroneous, vexatious and/or frivolous complaints to the OIA within the intention to impede or restrict the Mayor and subject councillors from commenting on Council matters, or contributing to debate within the Council. Furthermore, I have personally attended a meeting between the Mayor and three senior Council executives during which it became quite clear that the goal of the executives was to deny the Mayor a personal assistant, stating various reasons such as, a certain person was not a suitable candidate, another was not at the appropriate level, no one had applied for the position, and so on. I called the officers out on this dialogue and within a week a suitably qualified person was appointed and remains in the role providing the necessary support to the Mayor to complete their duties. I could cite many more examples of similar 'undermining' behaviour and am happy to do so should the opportunity arise. I support the aims of Inquiry into Local Government (Empowering Councils) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025, in particular restoring the authority of the Mayor as the democratically elected leader of the Council.