

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

Submission No: 033
Submission By: Western Downs Regional Council
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Customer Contact
1300 COUNCIL (1300 268 624)
07 4679 4000

www.wdrc.qld.gov.au

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Address all correspondence to the
Chief Executive Officer PO Box 551, DALBY,
QLD 4405

info@wdrc.qld.gov.au

ENQUIRIES TO:
Peter Greet
P 1300 268 624
P 07 4679 4000 (interstate)

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16 December 2025

Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee

Via email: lgsbcsc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

**RE: SUBMISSION - LOCAL GOVERNMENT (EMPOWERING COUNCILS) AND OTHER
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2025**

Western Downs Regional Council is pleased to provide this submission in response to the *Local Government (Empowering Councils) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025* and associated *Local Government Legislation (Empowering Councils) Amendment Regulation 2025*.

Council respectfully submits the following in respect to the *Local Government (Empowering Councils) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025*:

- (1) Re-empower Councillors to appoint senior executive employees.

Not supported.

Council submits that the recruitment of senior executive employees (other than the Chief Executive Officer) should remain the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer as elected members may not necessarily have the skillset required for executive recruitment processes.

Council respectfully submits the following in respect to the *Local Government Legislation (Empowering Councils) Amendment Regulation 2025*:

- (2) Enabling local governments (other than Brisbane City Council), to grant concessions to ratepayers, if satisfied the concession is appropriate having regard to the cost of living in the area the rateable land is situated.

Not Supported.

Council submits this may encourage inequities.

- (3) Requirement for Minister to grant extensions of time by which a local government must adopt their annual report.

Not supported.

Council submits this may lead to instances where Annual Reports are not completed.

- (4) Removing prohibition on councillors using discretionary funds in a local government election year.

Not supported.

Council submits this could be considered politicisation and provide an unfair advantage for candidates.

Council appreciates this opportunity to provide a submission.

If you have any queries in relation to this matter, please contact me on telephone [REDACTED] or email [REDACTED]

Yours faithfully

Brett Bacon
GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES