

Local Government Electoral and Other Legislation (Expenditure Caps) Amendment Bill 2022

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Submitted by: Redland City Council
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Our Ref: AC:ljc
Contact: Office of the Chief Executive Officer
[REDACTED]

The Secretary
State Development and Regional Industries Committee
Queensland Parliamentary Service
Parliament House
Cnr George and Alice Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000

sdric@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Call for Submissions – Inquiry into the Local Government Electoral and Other Legislation (Expenditure Caps) Amendment Bill 2022

I refer to your correspondence dated 5 December 2022 calling for submissions on the Inquiry into the Local Government Electoral and Other Legislation (Expenditure Caps) Amendment Bill 2022.

The Bill provides for local government electoral expenditure caps for:

- Councillor and Mayoral Candidates.
- Groups of Candidates.
- Register political parties that endorse a candidate in an election.
- Third parties (registered and unregistered).

In the case of Redland City Council, the cap for Mayoral candidates (based on 2020 figures) is \$110,412 and for Divisional Councillor candidates is \$15,000.

Redland City Council comprises of 11 independent Councillors (including the Mayor) and the proposed expenditure caps allow for grass roots democracy to still play a part in the Redlands Local Government area.

The Bill also includes the prescription of certain offences as integrity or serious integrity offences under the Local Government Act.

If an offence is detected at what point of time is the penalty imposed?

An offence, if not detected prior to election day, could result in an elected candidate being disqualified requiring the Local Government to be responsible for the cost of funding a by-election.

If a successful Mayoral candidate is found guilty of an offence under this section of the Act, the Local Government would be subjected to a significant expense in conducting that By-Election.

Redland City Council requests that clarity around the timing of implementing breaches is considered in the further development of the Bill.

Finally, it is requested that the Committee give consideration as to how the proposed provisions will be communicated to candidates.

It is suggested that the salient provisions of the proposed Election Expenditure Caps legislation be mandated in the "So you want to be a Councillor" training program.

On behalf of Redland City Council, thank you for the opportunity to make this submission on the Inquiry into the Local Government Electoral and Other Legislation (Expenditure Caps) Amendment Bill 2022.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Council's Group Manager Corporate Governance, Mr Tony Beynon on mobile [REDACTED] or email address: [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Andrew Chesterman
Chief Executive Officer
Redland City Council