

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

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**Submitted by:** Crime and Corruption Commission

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OFFICIAL

GPO Box 3123  
Brisbane QLD 4001

Level 2  
North Tower Green Square  
515 St Pauls Terrace  
Fortitude Valley QLD 4006

Tel.: **07 3360 6060**  
Toll-free: 1800 061 611  
(in Queensland outside  
Brisbane)

Fax: 07 3360 6333

mailbox@ccc.qld.gov.au  
www.ccc.qld.gov.au

ABN 32 164 714 360



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Contact Officer: David Caughlin

OFFICIAL

20 January 2023

State Development and Regional Industries Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE, QLD 4000

By email: [SDRIC@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:SDRIC@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Committee,

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

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission in relation to the *Local Government and Other Legislation (Expenditure Caps) Amendment Bill 2022* (the Bill).

The Bill proposes amendments to establish an electoral expenditure caps scheme for local government elections, and also adopts a number of definitions and offence provisions from the *Electoral Act 1992*.

In the Crime and Corruption Commission's (CCC) 2017 report *Operation Belcarra – A blueprint for integrity and addressing corruption risk in local government* (the Belcarra report) tabled on 4 October 2017, we recommended that a Parliamentary Committee review the feasibility of introducing expenditure caps for Queensland local government elections.

The Economics and Governance Committee undertook this review, which resulted in its Report No. 47, 56<sup>th</sup> Parliament *Inquiry into the feasibility of introducing expenditure caps for Queensland local government elections* tabled on 15 September 2020.

The CCC noted at the time of its Belcarra recommendation that whether to introduce expenditure caps, to whom they should apply, and the mechanism by which they should be introduced and enforced are all complex questions informed by a variety of factors. Those are matters appropriate for the Parliament to determine, although the underlying goal should be to ensure fairness and transparency in the electoral process.

The CCC has considered the proposed amendments. Overall they increase consistency between the State and Local Government election regime and are supported by the CCC.

The CCC considers any determination of the classification of offences as “integrity offences” or “serious integrity offences” are a matter of policy and best determined by Parliament. However, the CCC notes a relevant factor in determining the classification of such offences should include the consequences under the *Local Government Act 2009* if charges for such offences are laid.

The CCC is happy for this submission to be made public. Should you wish to discuss the matter further or have any questions in relation to the submission, please contact Mr David Caughlin, Executive Director, Legal, Risk and Compliance on [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

**David Caughlin**  
Executive Director, Legal, Risk & Compliance