




Speech By
Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

Record of Proceedings, 15 February 2018

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Local Government

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.52 am): Queensland ratepayers and residents deserve the very best from their elected local government officials. Topnotch service delivery, high ethical standards and unimpeachable integrity are the qualities that I am looking for as local government minister and they are found in absolute abundance in councils right across Queensland. Unfortunately there are the few proverbial bad eggs and it is their behaviour that is impacting on the standing of local government and the respect with which councillors and mayors are held in the community. I am working closely with mayors, councillors, the LGAQ and the community more broadly to ensure that Queensland has a legislative framework with very clear standards, standards that leave no doubt as to what is expected of those fortunate enough to be elected to these trusted positions.

When it comes to transparency and accountability ours is a rolling reform agenda. We enacted new laws last year that saw the introduction of real-time donation disclosure. Just last week I approved access to the Queensland Integrity Commissioner for Queensland's mayors and councillors. Implementation of this significant CCC recommendation contained in the CCC's report on Operation Belcarra will see councillors and mayors able to access independent, impartial, high-quality ethical and integrity advice. The LGAQ has welcomed this important reform, just as it has welcomed our plans to establish the Office of the Independent Assessor to deal with councillor complaints and enact new conflict of interest provisions. Queensland deserves transparent and accountable government at all levels. If we can achieve that then we, as the 56th Parliament, will have served our community well.