




Speech By
Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

Record of Proceedings, 22 August 2018

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Ipswich City Council, Administrator

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (9.39 am): Tomorrow an interim administrator will start work in Ipswich following the dismissal of the Ipswich City Council. Appointed by the Governor in Council this morning, Greg Chemello will assume the full roles and responsibilities of council, and be backed by an interim management committee. The overriding focus of the interim administrator and his team will be on the wellbeing of council staff and on maintaining council services, while restoring the good governance that has been absent in Ipswich for too long.

As the Premier has said, Greg Chemello brings a wealth of experience to the role from both the private and public sectors. Currently, Mr Chemello is the General Manager of Economic Development Queensland. He is vastly experienced in governance, change management and commercial negotiations, which are all vital attributes needed to lead Ipswich in this challenging period. He also has extensive experience in planning and government property transactions, which are strong qualities to manage a range of council projects underway in Ipswich.

Mr Chemello will be very well supported by an expert interim management committee. Those experts have the right blend of skills in governance, business, finance and community engagement to help turn the Ipswich City Council around and make it more transparent and accountable to the people of Ipswich. KPMG partner and forensic investigator Stan Gallo and former KPMG chair Robert Jones, who is an expert in corporate governance and risk management, will serve on the interim management committee. The other members of the committee are Simone Webbe, a barrister with extensive public sector experience; Jan Taylor, a community engagement specialist who served two terms on the Queensland Competition Authority; and local government policy expert and founding CEO of the Queensland Futures Institute, Steve Greenwood.

The government has not taken lightly the decision to dismiss the council. However, we were left with no alternative given the serious failures of governance, which have been well documented by the CCC. Importantly for ratepayers, the cost of the interim administrator, budgeted at \$3.4 million until the next local government elections are held in 2020, will be less than the cost of having a mayor and 10 councillors in place. I thank the people of Ipswich for their patience in this matter, and I assure them of the government's commitment to maintaining all council services and restoring good governance to the proud city of Ipswich.