




Speech By
Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

Record of Proceedings, 6 February 2020

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Local Government Elections

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.04 am): Preparations for the local government elections, to be held on 28 March, are in full swing. Voters in Queensland's 77 local governments will have a say on how their communities are run for the next four years. Of course, it will mark the return to having elected councils in both Ipswich and Logan.

The Electoral Commission of Queensland has launched its updated electronic disclosure system, has begun the recruitment of polling officials for this large democratic exercise and is doing a great deal of other behind-the-scenes work. Similarly, in many parts of the state the campaigning by candidates has hit its straps. In light of the Crime and Corruption Commission's landmark Operation Belcarra recommendations, and with support from the Local Government Association of Queensland, candidates for local government elections must undergo mandatory training in order to nominate. Since the training opened on 30 October 2019, as of this morning almost 2,000—that is, 1,976 to be precise—Queenslanders have enrolled in the mandatory training, either online or in person, and 1,556 have completed it. This is a fantastic result and feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with some requests for the training to go even further.

Queenslanders deserve representation of the highest calibre in local government. Mandatory training means we will have elected officials who have a better understanding of their responsibilities and obligations when serving their communities after 28 March and, indeed, their obligations in relation to the election period. Candidates have until nominations close to have completed the training. The ECQ has announced that nominations will open on Saturday, 22 February and close on 3 March, with the ballot draw to be held the next day. I look forward to working with all those Queenslanders elected as mayors and councillors after 28 March. Queensland mayors and councillors continue to be partners in the Palaszczuk government's rolling reform agenda and we look forward to going on that journey with them during the next four years.