



Speech By  
**Adam Baillie**

**MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE**

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**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (EMPOWERING COUNCILS) AND OTHER  
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr BAILLIE** (Townsville—LNP) (6.20 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the debate on the Local Government (Empowering Councils) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, and I speak in support of this bill. I thank the minister for introducing the bill and the committee chair for his leadership during the committee process as well as all of the committee members, the secretariat and everyone who supported the process, including stakeholders who provided evidence.

The Crisafulli government is delivering major reforms for the local government sector with fit-for-purpose legislation. The overarching policy objectives of this bill are to: empower councils and mayors; improve councillor conflicts-of-interest and register-of-interests frameworks; reduce unnecessary red tape and regulation; provide certainty to councillors about matters relating to remuneration, leave of absence, vacation of office and eligibility; promote good governance and decision-making; enhance safeguards for local government election candidates and participants; and make various minor, administrative and technical amendments.

After Labor treated councils like second-class citizens during their decade of decline and introduced sweeping changes without consultation, the Crisafulli government takes a different approach. This reform is off the back of listening to councils and working with them to deliver meaningful change. As the member for Townsville, I also have the privilege of representing Palm Island. Palm Island was one of the councils that submitted their thoughts on the bill. I will read some excerpts from their submission. They state—

The Bill reflects a welcome return to trust in local government, and a recognition that councils—particularly those in remote and Indigenous communities—are best placed to lead local solutions.

They go on to acknowledge that the reforms are ‘beneficial not only to Palm Island, but to the broader local government sector’. They highlight governance and leadership clarity, simplified conflict-of-interest and conduct frameworks, red-tape reduction, and councillor entitlements and electoral reforms. They further state—

These reforms align with Palm Island’s draft Corporate Plan 2026-2031, which calls for strengthened governance, streamlined compliance, and empowered local leadership as foundations for long-term community wellbeing.

...

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council welcomes this Bill as more than a legislative reform—we see it as a signal of trust, a platform for equity, and a step toward a future where First Nations councils are empowered to lead with clarity, confidence and cultural authority.

...

Palm Island stands ready to lead, to collaborate, and to model what is possible when Indigenous local governments are empowered not just to deliver services, but to shape futures.

We thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this important reform, and we look forward to working together to bring its promise to life—for our people, for our sector, and for the generations to come.

It is quite a powerful endorsement of what this bill will do to empower councils and mayors to deliver for Queensland by slashing red tape and reforming council frameworks. I look forward to continuing to work with the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council as well as Townsville City Council as we continue to deliver for our communities. I commend this bill to the House.