

Queensland Legislative Assembly	
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MP: Hon Brend Liffé	By Leave <input type="checkbox"/>
Clerk's Signature: _____	

**ECONOMICS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**  
**Report No. 26, 56<sup>th</sup> Parliament**  
**Local Government Electoral (Implementing Stage 2 of Belcarra) and Other Legislation**  
**Amendment Bill 2019**

**QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT RESPONSE**

**INTRODUCTION**

On 1 May 2019, the Local Government Electoral (Implementing Stage 2 of Belcarra) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 was introduced into Parliament.

The Bill was referred to the Economics and Governance Committee (the Committee). On 21 June 2019, the Committee tabled in the Legislative Assembly its Report on the Bill.

The Queensland Government response to the Committee's Report and recommendation is provided below.

**Committee recommendation 1:**

*The committee recommends the Local Government Electoral (Implementing Stage 2 of Belcarra) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 be passed.*

**Queensland Government response:**

The Government thanks the Committee for its thorough consideration of the Bill and notes the Committee's recommendation that the Bill be passed.

It is proposed to move amendments to the Bill during consideration in detail to remove from the Bill the reforms relating to conflicts of interest, registers of interests, full preferential voting and presumption of knowledge of gifts and loans.

The reforms to conflicts of interests (COIs) and registers of interests (ROIs) are proposed to be removed so that further review can be undertaken to consider the Crime and Corruption Commission's recommendations for managing COIs and ROIs at the State Government level and whether those recommendations are appropriate at the Local Government level.

Furthermore, reforms to implement full-preferential voting for Mayors in all Councils and Councillors in single member divisions are proposed to be removed.

It is also proposed to remove the clauses relating to the presumption of knowledge which provide that, for certain purposes, Councillors and Local Government election participants are presumed to know, unless the contrary is proven, that electoral gifts or loans were made to the Councillor or election participant and the source of the gift or loan.

These clauses raised significant concerns about the reversal of the onus of proof as noted in the Committee's Report on the Bill. Further, the clauses impose a higher obligation on Councillors and participants in Local Government elections than applies to members of State Parliament and participants in State elections. Consistency, as appropriate, between Local Government, State and Commonwealth electoral and governance frameworks is a policy objective of the Bill.