



Minister for Local Government,  
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Our ref: MC19/1831

Your ref: A430908

ABN 65 959 415 158

16 APR 2019

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Queensland Parliamentary Service  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Neil

Thank you for your letter of 1 April 2019 about petition number 3063-18 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 26 March 2019 concerning the employment of Local Government staff, including contractors employed through contracts between a company (or another type of entity) and a Local Government.

Chapter 6, Part 5 of the *Local Government Act 2009* (LGA) and Chapter 6, Part 4 of the *City of Brisbane Act 2010* (CoBA) set out the requirements for the employment of staff by Local Governments in Queensland. Sections 199 and 200 of the LGA and sections 196 and 197 of the CoBA prohibit improper conduct and misuse of information by Local Government or Council employees. For the purposes of the provisions, an employee includes a contractor. The LGA and CoBA prescribe maximum penalties of 100 penalty units or two years imprisonment for breaches of these provisions.

Contractors of Local Governments are also subject to the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001* and the *Criminal Code Act 1899* and may face prosecution proceedings.

Local Governments must also comply with Chapter 6 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012* (LGR) and Chapter 6 of the *City of Brisbane Regulation 2012* (CoBR) when procuring the services of contractors. This includes the use of an LGA arrangement as prescribed in section 234 of the LGR and section 224 of the CoBR, which enables Local Governments to enter into an arrangement with the Local Government Association of Queensland's company (LGAQ Ltd) or an associated company of LGAQ Ltd.

The engagement of contractors through companies and various other entities allows Local Governments to procure additional services when they are needed. Many Local Governments – especially those in rural and remote locations – rely on contractors to provide expertise and services which are not readily available. Contractors therefore provide an important service, and Local Governments have safeguards within existing legislation to appropriately manage the engagement and performance of contractors.

I would like to thank the petitioners for raising this matter with me and I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stirling Hinchliffe', with a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

**STIRLING HINCHLIFFE MP**  
**Minister for Local Government,**  
**Minister for Racing and**  
**Minister for Multicultural Affairs**