

STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE
Report No. 48, 57th Parliament
Local Government (Councillor Conduct) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023

QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

The Local Government (Councillor Conduct) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 (the Bill) was introduced to Parliament on 13 September 2023.

The Bill was referred to the State Development and Regional Industries Committee (the Committee). On 27 October 2023, the Committee tabled in the Legislative Assembly its Report (No. 48, 57th Parliament) on the Bill.

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

Committee recommendation 1:

The committee recommends that the Local Government (Councillor Conduct) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 be passed.

Queensland Government response:

The Government thanks the Committee for its thorough consideration of the Bill and notes the Committee's recommendation 1 that the Bill be passed.

Committee recommendation 2:

That the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning take further steps to ensure that the councillor conduct framework is operating as intended and fit for purpose for Queensland's Indigenous Councils.

Queensland Government response:

The Government supports recommendation 2.

The Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (the department) has developed a suite of tools to assist Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander councillors manage the councillor conduct issues they face in their unique context dealing with law and traditional lore responsibilities. These tools are in the final stage of production following review by the Office of the Independent Assessor.

Committee recommendation 3:

That the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, in consultation with the Tripartite Forum, prepare and update training materials to assist stakeholders interpret the distinction between private and public conduct.

Queensland Government response:

The Government supports recommendation 3.

The department has a full suite of information, training and guidance material in development to support the incoming cohort of councillors over the course of the next term. This includes the clarification of the distinction between public and private conduct of councillors. The department will continue to consult with the Tripartite Forum during the development of this material.

Committee recommendation 4:

That the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning take urgent steps to ensure the Councillor Conduct Tribunal is adequately resourced and that it has representatives from regional Queensland and First Peoples communities where practicable.

Queensland Government response:

The Government supports recommendation 4.

Following recent appointments, membership of the Councillor Conduct Tribunal will consist of a full-time President and 14 casual members. A number of casual members are from regional Queensland.

Committee recommendation 5:

That the relevant Parliamentary Committee conduct a review of the councillor conduct complaints system in the next Parliamentary term to ensure any amendments introduced by this Bill are operating as intended and without unintended consequence.

Queensland Government response:

The Government supports recommendation 5.

Queensland Legislative Assembly

Number: 5723T 1875



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Tabled ☒

By Leave ☐

MP: Hon Miles MP

Clerk's Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "A. [unclear]", written over a horizontal line.