

Our ref: CTS 05783/26

**22 APR 2026**

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
Corner of Alice and George Streets  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

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Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition 4449-26 tabled in the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 24 March 2026 regarding a proposal to prohibit persons with involvement in real estate or property development from nominating as a candidate in a local government election.

The Queensland Government considers that it would be inappropriate to prohibit individuals with involvement in real estate or property development from nominating as candidates in a local government election. Any such restriction would limit an individual's right to take part in public life under section 23 of the *Human Rights Act 2019*, specifically the right to have the opportunity to be elected at a local government election.

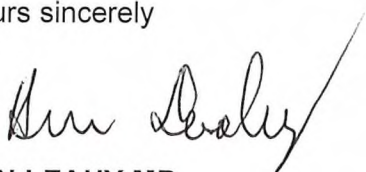
Once elected, councillors are required to manage any conflicts of interest in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009*. Failure to appropriately manage conflicts of interest may constitute misconduct, for which the maximum penalty is a recommendation that the Minister for Local Government dismiss the councillor, or may amount to corrupt conduct, which is a criminal offence.

It is considered that the existing legislative framework appropriately balances the integrity of the local government system with individuals' human rights to participate in public life and is supported by sufficient transparency measures and penalties.

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

If you have any questions, please contact my Chief of Staff, Mr Angus McCaffrey, on 0407 073 631 or email [Angus.McCaffrey@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:Angus.McCaffrey@ministerial.qld.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



**ANN LEAHY MP**  
**Minister for Local Government and Water**  
**Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers**

