



25 July 2018

Committee Secretary  
Economics and Governance Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000  
[egc@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:egc@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) is grateful for the opportunity to make a submission on the Draft Local Government (Dissolution of Ipswich City Council) Bill 2018.

The Government's intention to dissolve the Ipswich City Council and provide for the appointment of an interim administrator is understandable, given the unique circumstances created by the number of charges laid against Ipswich City councillors, council contractors and former council employees.

However, the LGAQ cannot support this Draft Bill because it denies those who are the subject of charges natural justice. No one who has been charged has had the benefit of their day in court to deal with the claims against them. No court hearing has been completed.

Furthermore, the Draft Bill is blatantly unfair towards those democratically elected councillors who will lose their jobs despite having no claims of wrongdoing levelled against them.

Notwithstanding the LGAQ does not support the Draft Bill, in the event that the Committee recommends that it be passed, **the LGAQ urges the Committee to recommend the following amendments to the Draft Bill**, to restore some sense of fairness for those councillors not facing any charges:

1. An amendment to the Draft Bill which stipulates the making of a separation payment for the ten councillors which are not subject to any charges (noting that those who are facing charges are currently suspended at full pay); and
2. The removal from the Draft Bill of the provisions in clause 7 which prevent these ten councillors from nominating as a candidate for any by-elections that may be held in other local government areas between now and the 2020 quadrennial local government elections.

I trust these comments will assist the Committee with its consideration of the Draft Bill.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Hallam', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Greg Hallam AM  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER