The Queensland Government is pursuing a rolling reform agenda to strengthen the transparency, accountability and integrity measures that apply to the system of local government and elections in Queensland. Following further consultation with the local government sector, in November 2019 the Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2019 was introduced to the Queensland Legislative Assembly.

Objectives of the Bill

The Bill includes amendments relating to state elections, Ministerial conduct, and conduct in local government.

Objectives of the local government amendments:

- Response to feedback from the local government sector, including clarification of conflict of interest requirements and registers of interests
- Reforms to align local government with election requirements applying to state Members of Parliament

Local government changes

- New register of interests requirements
- New and clarified conflict of interest requirements
- New requirements for political advisors
- Provisions relating to the dissolution of a local government and administrators
- Changes for filling councillor and mayor vacancies

The Bill and Explanatory Notes can be viewed on the Queensland Parliament’s website at www.legislation.qld.gov.au.
What's next?

The Bill has been referred to the Economics and Governance Parliamentary Committee to conduct an inquiry. For more information about the inquiry or how to make a submission visit www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-committees/committees/EGC.

In addition to the Bill there are also a number of future local government regulatory amendments required. These include improvements to transparency through changes to requirements for meeting agendas, minutes, informal meetings, and when matters can be considered in closed meetings.

Information paper

The Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs wishes to thank mayors, councillors, council staff and local government stakeholders for engagement and feedback during the reform process.

The department has published a detailed information paper that outlines reforms included in the Bill as well as providing a summary of all local government reforms legislated to date. To view a copy of the paper, visit www.dlgrma.qld.gov.au/lgreform.

More information

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