



Recognising and upholding excellence in local government

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14 June 2018

Committee Secretary
Economics and Governance Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Email: egc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Secretary

Subject: *Electoral Legislation (Political Donations) Amendment Bill 2018*

OSCAR (Organisation of Sunshine Coast Association of Residents) is the peak body representing 40 resident and community organisations on the Sunshine Coast. We are a non-partisan and not-for-profit incorporated association.

Given our belief that this Private Member's Bill is unlikely to enjoy the support of either the ALP or LNP and is therefore unlikely to proceed, we will simply make a brief submission that indicates OSCAR's general position on this matter.

We note that this Bill seeks to extend the scope of the recently passed, and welcomed by OSCAR, Local Government Electoral (Implementing Stage 1 of Belcarra) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 to include a definition for corporate political donor and further create a prohibition on the making or receipt of political donations by or on behalf of political corporate donors in a provision that mirrors the prohibitions related to developer donations in the Belcarra Bill.

We further note that prohibited corporate donors do not include charities, not-for-profit organisations, or employee and employer organisations under state or federal industrial relations legislation.

We strongly support the intentions of this proposed Bill (particularly the amendments relevant to the *Local Government Electoral Act 2011*) as a logical extension of the Belcarra Stage 1 legislation. We view this as a desirable next step in reform of political donations which if enacted would place Queensland on the path to becoming the model jurisdiction for legislation aimed at eliminating the actual and perceived risk of corruption as a consequence of corporate donations to politicians, candidates and political parties.

We believe this Bill, if successful, would take Queensland closer to a point where future reform legislation on political donations could go further and limit such donations to natural persons on the electoral role for the local or state electorate in which they are enrolled.

OSCAR wishes the committee well in its deliberations.

Yours sincerely

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

Greg Smith
President, OSCAR

Email mail@oscar.org.au (NB our preferred form of communication)