

OSCAR President

From: Tim Dunne <Tim.Dunne@dlgrma.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 26 September 2018 14:24
To: OSCAR President
Subject: RE: HPE CM: Meeting with OSCAR today

Hi Greg

Thanks again for meeting with the department on Monday. It was extremely useful for me to hear from stakeholders other than local government councillors and their peak representative organisation when assessing the relative public value associated with different policy options.

I am also grateful for your organisation's written submission to the Belcarra recommendations.

In relation to the LGAQ, I was referring to section 77 of the Queensland Constitution about the need to consult with the LGAQ on local government Bills. I am not aware of any other legislative requirements to engage with the LGAQ but the government has entered into the Partners in Government Agreement with the LGAQ that sets out a number of obligations for the State and local governments including reinforcing the commitment to meaningful engagement with the LGAQ on matters impacting on councils.

Thanks again and hopefully we will have more opportunities to engage with your organisation again.

Tim

From: OSCAR President <president@oscar.org.au>
Sent: Monday, 24 September 2018 8:48 PM
To: Tim Dunne <Tim.Dunne@dlgrma.qld.gov.au>
Subject: HPE CM: Meeting with OSCAR today

Dear Tim

On behalf of OSCAR I would like to sincerely thank you and Kent for the time you devoted to listening to our views on Belcarra recommendations and other issues of relating LG reform. Please pass this onto Kent.

We felt you gave us a very good hearing and we enjoyed a session that seemed to us to represent genuine consultation – not something we always experience in other contexts. I hope our comments were useful to you. We are realistic about what might be achieved/achievable and the priorities and timeframe you outlined at the start of the meeting but the opportunity to open what hopefully will be an on-going dialogue is appreciated.

We will provide you with a more formal and comprehensive (but hopefully brief) list of our priorities for reform in local government in the timeframe you have indicated. We now need to consult our broader membership to confirm our "wish list".

In my quick overview of our suggestions for further reform I omitted one item; our desire for the setting up of a Community Advisory Group to provide input to the Minister and Department on proposed reforms from a community/ratepayer perspective. We did refer to this issue tangentially in our comments on the power and influence of the LGAQ.

On the matter of the LGAQ, I was very interested in your information in relation to the requirement to involve the LGAQ in matters relating to local government legislative change. Is the relevant section of the Constitution you referred to this one:

PART 3—SPECIAL PROCEDURES FOR PARTICULAR LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILLS

77 Procedure for Bill affecting a local government

(1) This section applies for a Bill for an Act that would—

- (a) be administered by a Minister who administers a provision of the *Local Government Act 1993*; and
- (b) affect local governments generally or any of them.

(2) The member of the Legislative Assembly who proposes to introduce the Bill in the Legislative Assembly must, if the member considers it practicable, arrange for a summary of the Bill to be given to a body representing local governments in the State a reasonable time before the Bill is introduced in the Legislative Assembly.

Is there anywhere else in the Constitution or Queensland legislation that refers generally to “a body representing local governments”? Please note that we are not disputing the fact that the LGAQ is correctly the organisation that satisfies this requirement.

Are there references to the LGAQ specifically (other than Section 287 of the LG Act and Sections 19, 234 and 307 of the LG Regulations) in other associated or relevant legislation?

Best wishes ... Greg

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