1. The Local Government Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 proposes amendments to the *City of Brisbane Act 2010*, the *Local Government Act 2009* and the *Local Government Electoral Act 2011*.
2. Amendments to the *Local Government Electoral Act 2011* include:
* empowering the chief executive officer (CEO) of a local government to be the returning officer for a council election unless the CEO advises the Electoral Commission of Queensland otherwise
* changing the system of voting for mayors in undivided councils from first-past-the-post to optional-preferential
* simplifying the method of numbering candidates in first-past-the-post elections
* removing all restrictions on who can apply for a postal vote
* introducing electronic voting and prescribed proof of identity requirements at the local level as and when appropriate.
1. These and other amendments to the *Local Government Electoral Act 2011* will:
* achieve greater alignment with the state’s electoral system including recent reforms under the *Electoral Reform Amendment Act 2014*
* improve Queensland’s local government electoral laws
* refine provisions unique to the conduct of local government elections
* make minor technical amendments to remove unnecessary red tape, modernise the legislation and remove out-dated sections.
1. The Bill also makes minor technical amendments to the *City of Brisbane Act 2010* and the *Local Government Act 2009* to clarify policy intent and to correct minor anomalies. Amendments include:
* clarifying that a councillor serving a suspended sentence is disqualified from being a councillor immediately upon the sentence being handed down
* repealing obsolete de-amalgamation provisions now that the four new local governments of Douglas, Livingstone, Mareeba and Noosa are operational.
1. Cabinet approved the introduction of the Local Government Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 into the Legislative Assembly.
2. *Attachments*
* [Local Government Legislation Amendment Bill 2014](Attachments/Bill.pdf)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.pdf)