1. In 2016, the Queensland Government announced the appointment of an independent panel to review arrangements for dealing with complaints about the conduct of local government councillors. The review was commissioned to examine and evaluate the effectiveness of the current councillor conduct complaints system to ensure that councillors are held to high standards of ethical and legal behaviour. The Panel released a discussion paper seeking public submissions last year resulting in a recommendations report.
2. The “Councillor Complaints Review: A fair, effective and efficient framework” (the Councillor Complaints Review Report) outlines 60 recommendations for changes to the councillor complaints processes.
3. The most significant changes recommended involve the creation of a new statutory office of the Independent Assessor to assess complaints and conduct investigations, reconstituting the relevant Tribunal with different powers and responsibilities, creating a Code of Conduct and model meeting procedures for local governments, and creating a “blackout” for disclosure of complaints during a local government caretaker period.
4. There are also recommendations about how the three levels of breach of conduct (being corrupt conduct, misconduct and inappropriate conduct) are defined.
5. The Queensland Government’s response to the Councillor Complaints Review Report notes that the recommendations are generally supported or supported in principle.
6. Cabinet endorsed the Councillor Complaints Review Report and the Government Response to the Councillor Complaints Review Report for tabling in the Legislative Assembly.
7. *Attachments*
* [Councillor Complaints Review: A fair, effective and efficient framework](Attachments/Report.pdf)
* [Queensland Government response to the “Councillor Complaints Review: A fair, effective and efficient framework”](Attachments/Response.pdf)