1. The Local Government (Councillor Complaints) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 proposes amendments to the *Local Government Act 2009* and the *Public Service Act 2008* to give effect to the government’s response to the recommendations of the independent councillor complaints review panel’s report ‘Councillor Complaints Review: A fair, effective and efficient framework’ (Councillor Complaints Report).
2. The Bill implements the government’s response to the Councillor Complaints Report to provide a simpler, more streamlined system for investigating and dealing with councillor conduct, including by:
* establishing the position of the Independent Assessor to investigate and deal with alleged or suspected inappropriate conduct, misconduct or, when referred to the Assessor by the Crime and Corruption Commission, corrupt conduct of councillors
* providing for local governments to investigate and deal with suspected inappropriate conduct and to take disciplinary action against councillors for inappropriate conduct
* reallocating the responsibilities of the existing Local Government Remuneration and Discipline Tribunal and the Regional Conduct Review Panels to the new Councillor Conduct Tribunal which will hear and determine complaints of misconduct by councillors and the new Local Government Remuneration Commission which will decide remuneration of councillors
* amending the definitions of inappropriate conduct and misconduct, introducing the concept of unsuitable meeting conduct and providing for the Minister to make a Code of Conduct to provide greater clarity to councillors about their behavioural obligations
* providing for administration and governance matters including model meeting procedures for local government meetings and a public register containing particular details about councillor conduct matters
* strengthening offences to support the new system, including by providing protection against reprisals for local government employees or councillors who make complaints against other councillors, discouraging frivolous or improper complaints and ensuring confidentiality of investigations.
1. The Bill applies to all local governments other than the Brisbane City Council.
2. Cabinet approved the introduction of the Local Government (Councillor Complaints) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 into the Legislative Assembly.
3. *Attachments*
	* [Local Government (Councillor Complaints) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017](Attachments/Bill.PDF)
	* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.PDF)