1. The Local Government Electoral (Implementing Stage 2 of Belcarra) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 (the Belcarra Stage 2 Bill) proposes further amendments to the *Local Government Act 2009*, the *Local Government Electoral Act 2011* and the *City of Brisbane Act 2010* to build on the intent of the reforms in the Belcarra Stage 1 Act and progress the Government’s ongoing program of reforms to improve accountability, transparency, integrity and public confidence in the Local Government and Local Government elections.
2. The proposed reforms in the Belcarra Stage 2 Bill include amendments to:
	* strengthen the State’s intervention powers in relation to Local Governments to allow other forms of remedial action, such as the appointment of advisors or a financial controller or removing an unsound decision, where it is in the public interest to do so;
	* implements the Government’s response to additional recommendations of the Belcarra Report;
	* strengthening the election gift and expenditure disclosure requirements for sitting Councillors and third parties;
	* requiring candidates at Local Government elections to complete a mandatory training course as a condition of nomination;
	* amending the powers of Mayors in relation to budgets and senior executive employees.;
3. Following introduction of the Belcarra Stage 2 Bill and examination by the relevant Parliamentary Committee, amendments were proposed to the Belcarra Stage 2 Bill, including a proposed departure from the Government’s response to recommendations 7 and 21 of the Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC) report *Operation Belcarra: A blueprint for integrity and addressing corruption risk in Local Government (*Belcarra Report) to mean that Councillors will not be presumed to know, unless the contrary is proven, that the gift or loan was given to the Councillor and the source of the relevant gift or loan.
4. The Committee’s report noted that stakeholders, including the Local Government Association of Queensland and the Queensland Law Society, identified significant concerns about the reversal of the onus of proof that the amendments would effect, noting a Councillor would be required to prove both that they did not know the gift or loan was given to them, and also the source of the gift or loan.
5. Cabinet noted amendments to be moved during consideration in detail to the Local Government Electoral (Implementing Stage 2 of Belcarra) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019.
6. Cabinet approved the Government response to the Economics and Governance Committee Report No. 26, 56th Parliament on the Local Government Electoral (Implementing Stage 2 of Belcarra) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019.
7. *Attachments*
* [Economics and Governance Committee Report No. 26 - Local Government Electoral (Implementing Stage 2 of Belcarra) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019](Attachments/Report.pdf)
* [Government response to the Report of the Economics and Governance Committee](Attachments/Response.PDF)