1. The new stand alone Local Government electoral legislation is an essential component of the Local Government Reform program and a Queensland first. By moving Local Government electoral provisions into one stand alone piece of legislation, the proposed Bill will provide a single practitioner-friendly Act and point of reference for Councils, Local Government candidates, the Electoral Commission of Queensland (ECQ) and the community. It will meet community expectations of efficiency, transparency and integrity in Local Government elections.
2. The Bill maintains many aspects of the original Local Government electoral legislation believed by stakeholders and the community to be vital elements of an efficient and transparent electoral framework. These include the direct election of Mayors and the maintenance of existing voting systems (i.e. optional preferential voting for Local Government areas with single member divisions and first past the post for all other Local Government areas).
3. A key feature of the new Bill is moving responsibility for the conduct and administration of all aspects of all Local Government elections from Local Governments to the ECQ. Giving the ECQ a mandate to oversee and conduct all Local Government elections creates an independent, central point of coordination for Local Government elections.
4. The Bill also includes amendments to the *Mixed Use Development Act 1993*, *Sanctuary Cove Resort Act 1985*, *Building Act 1975*, the *Local Government Act 2009*, and the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008* to improve equity and transparency of bodies corporate conduct in certain mixed use communities, correct anomalies and to implement Government policy in relation to fire safety standards for residential care buildings, swimming pool barriers on common boundaries, a pool safety exclusion for certain public swimming pools and makes a minor correction in relation to regulated dogs.
5. Additionally, the Bill includes amendments to the *Public Trustee Act 197*8, the *State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999* and the *State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2000* consequential upon the commencement of the *Commonwealth Personal Property Securities Act 2009*, and amendments to the *Public Trustee Act 197*8 in relation to unclaimed moneys and the unclaimed moneys register.
6. Cabinet approved the Local Government Electoral Bill 2011 be introduced into the Legislative Assembly.
7. *Attachments*
* [Local Government Electoral Bill 2011](Attachments/Att%201%20Local%20Government%20Electoral%20Bill%202011.PDF)
* [Local Government Electoral Bill 2011 – Explanatory Notes](Attachments/Att%202%20Local%20Government%20Electoral%20Bill%202011%20Explanatory%20Notes.PDF)