1. Over the past 14 months, a number of Ipswich City Council Councillors, employees and contractors have been charged by the Crime and Corruption Commission with a variety of misconduct and corruption offences.
2. These events have raised concerns about the administration and operations of the Ipswich City Council. The policy objectives of the Local Government (Dissolution of Ipswich City Council) Bill 2018 (the Bill) are to resolve those concerns promptly and to provide the Ipswich community with certainty by dissolving the Ipswich City Council and providing for the appointment of an interim administrator to act in place of the Councillors for an interim period. The interim administrator has the responsibilities and powers of the Ipswich City Council and the mayor.
3. The Parliamentary Economics and Governance Committee (EGC) conducted an inquiry into a draft version of the Bill. On 17 August 2018 the EGC tabled in the Legislative Assembly its Report (No. 12, 56th Parliament) on the draft Bill.
4. The EGC report made three recommendations:
* Recommendation 1 – The Committee recommends (on the basis that the draft Bill is introduced) that the Legislative Assembly pass the Local Government (Dissolution of Ipswich City Council) Bill 2018.
* Recommendation 2 – The Committee recommends that the draft Bill be amended to allow for the Minister to appoint an acting interim administrator in circumstances of short-term absences of the interim administrator.
* Recommendation 3 – The Committee recommends that the draft Bill be amended to clarify that an Ipswich City Council Councillor can be nominated as a candidate or for appointment as a Councillor for any Local Government election in 2020.
1. The Government response to the report supported recommendation 2 and supported in principle recommendations 1 and 3.
2. Cabinet approved the introduction of the Local Government (Dissolution of Ipswich City Council) Bill 2018 into the Legislative Assembly.
3. Cabinet approved the Government response to the Economic and Governance Committee Report (No. 12, 56th Parliament).
4. Cabinet endorsed that Greg Chemello be recommended to the Governor in Council for appointment as the interim administrator of the Ipswich City Council until the conclusion of the 2020 Local Government quadrennial elections.
5. *Attachments*
* [Local Government (Dissolution of Ipswich City Council) Bill 2018](Attachments/Bill.PDF)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.PDF)
* [Economics and Governance Committee, Report No. 12, 56th Parliament on the draft Bill](Attachments/Report.PDF)
* [Government response to the EGC Report](Attachments/Response.PDF)