1. The creation of the role of Independent Assessor (IA) and the establishment of the Councillor Conduct Tribunal (CCT) are core components of the Government’s Councillor complaints reform agenda. The *Local Government (Councillor Complaints) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2018* (Amendment Act) was assented to on 21 May 2018 and commences by Proclamation.
2. Section 150CT of the Amended Act creates the role of the IA. The IA would undertake the initial assessment of all complaints about Councillor conduct. It would investigate misconduct complaints against Local Government Mayors and Councillors and have the power to seize documents and compel people to attend interviews. Where complaints are not genuine, the IA would have the power to dismiss vexatious complaints.
3. The CCT is established under new chapter 5A, part 5, division 2 of the Amended Act, with the following functions:
* to, at the request of a Local Government, investigate the suspected inappropriate conduct of a Councillor referred to the Local Government by the IA and to make recommendations to the Local Government about dealing with the conduct; and
* to hear and determine complaints about Councillor misconduct referred to it by the IA.
1. Cabinet endorsed that Kathleen Florian be recommended to the Governor in Council for appointment to the role of Independent Assessor for a term of five years commencing 22 October 2018.
2. Cabinet endorsed that John Boyd (President) and Susan Johnson, Rodney Metcalf, Tamara O’Shea, Christina Turner, Gail Hartridge, and June Anstee (casual members) be recommended to the Governor in Council for appointment to the Councillor Conduct Tribunal for a term of four years commencing 1 November 2018.
3. *Attachments*
* Nil.