1. The Local Government Electoral (Transparency and Accountability in Local Government) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 proposes amendments to the *Associations Incorporation Act 1981* (AI Act), the *Building Act 1975* (Building Act), the *Local Government Electoral Act 2011* (LGEA), the *Planning Act 2016* (Planning Act), the *Planning and Environment Court Act 2016* (PECA), the *Planning (Consequential) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2016* and the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009* (SPA).
2. The Crime and Corruption Commission’s (CCC) Report of 11 December 2015 ‘Transparency and accountability in local government’ concluded that governance around local government electoral donations was confusing and did not clearly outline how campaign funds and donations should be treated.
3. The Bill directly addresses the CCC’s recommendations and builds on the Government’s donation reporting reforms by amending:

* the AI Act to clarify that incorporated associations cannot be used to receive or hold electoral campaign funds which benefit a member of the association, either directly or indirectly
* the LGEA to:
  + ensure consistency between the disclosure requirements of candidates and councillors
  + facilitate real-time online electoral donation disclosures for local government elections, consistent with state election requirements
  + require candidates and groups of candidates to account for unspent donations.

1. The Bill also amends the LGEA to clarify that indirect as well as direct costs incurred by Electoral Commission Queensland for conducting a local government election are recoverable from local governments.
2. The Bill includes amendments to the SPA to “bring forward” the following reforms in the recently enacted planning legislation:

* arrangements under the Planning Act for limited retrospective commencement of temporary local planning instruments, subject to Ministerial approval;
* reformed costs arrangements under the PECA; and
* increased penalties for development offences from 1665 penalty units to 4500 penalty units.

1. The Bill also includes provisions for resolution of legislative issues with the SPA Act, the Planning Act and the Building Act arising from recent decisions of the Planning and Environment Court and Court of Appeal, concerning assessment of building work by local governments and private certifiers.
2. Cabinet endorsed the introduction of the Local Government Electoral (Transparency and Accountability in Local Government) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 into the Legislative Assembly.
3. *Attachments*

* [Local Government Electoral (Transparency and Accountability in Local Government) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016](Attachments/Bill.PDF)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.PDF)