

7.6. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND - SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

REPORT AUTHOR Chief Executive Officer

DEPARTMENT Office of the Chief Executive Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. Council endorse the position that Councillors should not automatically stop being a Councillor, in the event that they nominate (and campaign) for election to the Queensland Parliament; and
2. Council resolve to vote, “for” the existing Local Government Association of Queensland’s current policy position.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) has called special meeting to be conveyed by postal vote, and seeks to understand member council views about a reform that was introduced to State Parliament and which is contrary to the long held policy position of Queensland member councils since 2012.

BACKGROUND

At present, the effect of section 155(3) of the *Local Government Act 2009* is that councillors:

1. Can nominate for election as a State or Federal member of Parliament (and campaign for that election), without having to vacate their office as councillor; and
2. Only after being successfully elected to either State or Federal Parliament, automatically stop being a local government councillor.

On 18 November 2025, the State Government introduced the Local Government (Empowering Councils) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 (“the LGOLA 2025 Bill”) into Queensland Parliament.

Clause 62 of the LGOLA 2025 Bill proposes to amend section 155 of the *Local Government Act 2009* such that, if the amendment is made, section 155 will read as follows:

(1) A person can not be a councillor while the person is a government member or electoral candidate.

(2) A government member is:

- (a) a member of a Parliament of the Commonwealth or a State (including Queensland);
or
- (b) a councillor of a local government of another State.

(3) A person is an electoral candidate if, under the *Electoral Act*, section 93(3), the person becomes a candidate for an election of a member of the Legislative Assembly.

(4) A person automatically stops being a councillor when the person becomes a government member or electoral candidate.

The effect of this amendment, if passed by Parliament, will be to automatically end a person's role as a Mayor or councillor at the time that their nomination for election to Queensland Parliament is accepted by the Electoral Commission Queensland (ECQ). That is, regardless of the success (or otherwise) of the person's attempt to be elected to Queensland Parliament, their role as councillor ends at the time that they nominate for the State election.

The LGAQ's current policy position on this issue is that councillors should not be required to vacate their office as a councillor, in the event that they nominate (and campaign) for election to the Queensland Parliament.

The purpose of this motion is to ascertain whether the members still support the LGAQ's current policy position on this issue.

A member's vote for the motion means that the member supports the LGAQ's current policy position on the issue (and does not support the State Government's proposed amendment).

A member's vote against the motion means that the member support the State government's proposed amendment (and no longer supports the LGAQ's current policy position on the issue).

A postal vote is being undertaken by the LGAQ with Council required to submit their voting paper (attachment 1) by 5pm 17 December 2025.

PROPOSAL

That:

1. Council endorse the position that Councillors should not automatically stop being a Councillor, in the event that they nominate (and campaign) for election to the Queensland Parliament; and
2. Council resolve to vote, "for" the existing Local Government Association of Queensland's current policy position.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic: Nil

Environmental: Nil

Social: Nil

CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN, POLICY REFERENCE

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

Corporate Plan 2025-2030 Initiatives:

Theme 2 - Prosperity

Council plans, builds and maintains the infrastructure required to improve our lifestyle and promote economic growth, working actively to support local businesses.

2.7 - Build strong local, State and Federal relations.

Operational Plan 2025-2026 Actions:

2.7.4 - Continued membership of the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ).

COUNCIL'S ROLE

Council can play a number of different roles in certain circumstances and it is important to be clear about which role is appropriate for a specific purpose or circumstance. The implementation of actions will be a collective effort and Council's involvement will vary from information only through to full responsibility for delivery.

The following areas outline where Council has a clear responsibility to act:

Advocate	Council makes representation on behalf of the community on important issues, funding opportunities, projects and programs. Council will use its influence to seek the best outcomes for the community.
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CONSULTATION

Internal: Nil

External: Local Government Association of Queensland

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS

1. LGAQ Special General Meeting - Voting Paper - Douglas [7.6.1 - 1 page]

VOTING PAPER

MEMBER: Douglas Shire Council

VOTING ENTITLEMENT: 2

PLEASE INDICATE YOUR VOTING INTENTION BY PLACING A MARK IN THE BOX ADJACENT TO THE WORD “FOR” IF YOU ARE FOR THE MOTION OR ADJACENT TO THE WORD “AGAINST” IF YOU ARE AGAINST THE MOTION

Motion:

That the LGAQ maintains its members’ current policy position, held since 2012, that councillors should not automatically stop being a councillor, in the event that they nominate (and campaign) for election to the Queensland Parliament.

MOTION	
FOR	
AGAINST	

.....
SIGNATURE

(TO BE SIGNED BY THE MAYOR OR CEO)

VOTING PAPERS MUST BE RETURNED BY 5:00PM ON 17 DECEMBER, 2025.
VOTING PAPERS MUST BE GIVEN BY EMAIL TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AT
returning_officer@lgaq.asn.au
ANY VOTING PAPER RECEIVED AFTER 5:00PM ON 17 DECEMBER, 2025 WILL BE INVALID AND
OF NO EFFECT

