

Our ref: DGC22/141



21 April 2022

Department of
**State Development, Infrastructure,
Local Government and Planning**

Councillor Theresa Harding
Mayor
Ipswich City Council
mayor@ipswich.qld.gov.au

Dear Mayor Harding

Thank you for your letter of 24 March 2022 to Mr Damien Walker, Director-General, Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning submitting the quarterly report on the Ipswich City Council's (the council) performance. Mr Walker has asked me to respond on his behalf on this occasion.

I appreciate your report on the details of the work undertaken during October to December 2021 to ensure good governance throughout the council. However, I have noted the recent media articles about the council's decision to adopt a new Media Policy.

The reporting about the new Media Policy has stated the council has moved away from council's previous statement regarding its commitment to transparency. As I am sure you appreciate, the local government principles outlined in the *Local Government Act 2009* specifically include transparent and effective processes.

I am also cognisant that the Crime and Corruption Commission's 2018 report *Culture and corruption risks in local government, Lessons from an investigation into Ipswich City Council (Operation Windage)* identified that one of the most serious failures of the culture and conduct at the council was the use of mechanisms which allowed avoidance of scrutiny of its actions.

It would be appreciated if your next quarterly report could detail the changes to the Media Policy and why those changes were seen as necessary and appropriate.

If you require any further information, please contact Ms Rebecca McAnalen, Principal Region Advisor (Southern), Local Government Division, in the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, by telephone on (07) 3452 6738 or by email at rebecca.mcanalen@dsdilgp.qld.gov.au, who will be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely

Bronwyn Blagoev
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