

**Date of Council Resolution:** TBC

**Resolution Number:** TBC

**Motion:** *That the LGAQ call upon the State Government to provide the principles of privilege, those same privileges of State and Federal Government of debate within Council General Meetings.*

**Background:** Under the *Parliamentary Privileges Act 1987* Members of the Houses of both State and Federal Parliament are afforded protection with respect to any statements made by them in Parliament, and accordingly may not be sued for defamation for any such statements. The intent is to provide Members with freedom of speech.

Local Government Councillors, however, are subject to the laws of defamation; both during Council meetings and at other times.

A number of other Queensland Councils currently utilise video streaming as a means by which to provide their constituents with access to Council decisions and debate, despite not being protected under the Parliamentary Privilege umbrella.

**Desired Outcome:** That the principles of Parliamentary Privilege be extended to the Local Government level in order to facilitate full and frank debate which can be openly communicated to their wider communities.

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**Motion:** *That the LGAQ lobby the Australian Electoral Commission and Electoral Commission of Queensland to advocate for the formulation of a set of guidelines regarding electoral signage placement to be policed and enforced by the electoral commissions.*

**Background:** The recent Federal election highlighted that placement and removal of electoral signage is not currently regulated. Neither does it appear that safety is necessarily a consideration for candidates with signage at times creating a distraction for traffic or impeding pedestrian movement.

While the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918 (s.340(1) and (1A))* does refer to signage in the vicinity of a pre-polling or polling place, the Act makes no mention of general electoral signage. The *Queensland Electoral Act 1992* is also silent with regard to candidate signage and any obligations regarding placement and removal.

Conversely, the *Queensland Local Government Act 2009 Div 3 S.36(1), (3) and (4)*, specifically addresses electoral signage placement and prohibits Local Governments from passing a local law regarding, and therefore having the ability to regulate, electoral signage placement.

**Desired Outcome:** That a set of consistent guidelines be formulated in order to ensure safe and appropriate placement of electoral signage and that associated enforcement occur.