Commencement timeframes

Local Government (Empowering Councils) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2026

Amendments to *Local Government Act 2009*, *City of Brisbane Act 2010* and *Local Government Electoral Act 2011*, *Right to Information Act 2009* and associated regulations

Theme	Amendment	Date effective
Empowering councils	• Appointment of senior executive employees of a local government	• 11 March 2026
	• Appointment of senior contract employees at Brisbane City Council (BCC)	• 11 March 2026
	• Access to quarry materials under section 143 of the *Local Government Act 2009*	• 11 March 2026
	• Rating powers of Indigenous local governments, Aurukun Shire Council and Mornington Shire Council	• 11 March 2026
Empowering mayors	• Mayor is official spokesperson of council	• 11 March 2026
	• Mayor is default chairperson of ordinary and special meetings, and committee meetings for which the mayor is appointed chairperson	• 11 March 2026
Conflicts of interest framework	• New conflicts of interest framework based on material personal interests and conflicts of interest	• 1 July 2026
Register of interests framework	• Reporting periods for interests in councillors' registers of interests and extracts published on council websites	• 1 July 2026
Removing red tape	• General Ministerial approval for major policy decisions about Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements during local government caretaker period • Remove duplication of requirements for annual report and councillor conduct register • Remove regulation-making power in relation to functions or responsibilities of councillor advisors • Streamline postal ballot application process • ECQ to initiate process and amend deadline of review of wards/divisions and councillors before a quadrennial election • Remove requirement to provide Minister with public benefit assessment report • Mandatory training provisions for candidates and councillors – specific mandatory councillor training to be notified by Director-General within timeframe prescribed by regulation	• 11 March 2026
	• Removal of conduct breaches from councillor conduct framework	• 1 July 2026
Clarifying councillor remuneration, leaves of absence, vacation of	• Councillors entitled to remuneration from date their term starts or date appointed, until date term ends • Councillors absent from council (with or without leave of absence) entitled to remuneration	• 11 March 2026

Theme	Amendment	Date effective
office and eligibility	• Leave of absence does not stop councillor participating in meeting nor limit councillor undertaking other responsibilities • Automatic vacation from office if councillor is elected or appointed mayor • Automatic removal from office on nomination as a candidate at State election	
Promoting good governance and decision making	• Power for councillor to request information from CEO does not apply to a parliamentary proceeding (e.g. a submission to a committee, tabled paper) • Promote good governance and decision-making at BCC by making provisions about the disclosure of information	• 11 March 2026
Protecting the privacy and safety of election participants	• Give election candidates and participants the option to include a PO Box address or other form of address prescribed by regulation in election material	• 11 March 2026
Minor, administrative and/or technical amendments	• Allow BCC to adopt its budget before 1 August to align with other local governments	• 11 March 2026
	• Ensure name of councillor who engages in unsuitable meeting conduct included in conduct register	• 11 March 2026
	• Clarify obligation of trustee councils apply to all trustee councils.	• 11 March 2026
	• Update references in local government legislation.	• 11 March 2026
	• Confirm original intent that frivolous complaints provisions apply to decisions at the assessment stage	• 11 March 2026
	• Councils to manage competitive neutrality complaints through their administrative action complaints process	• 11 March 2026
	• Increase the maximum term of appointment of an acting Independent Assessor	• 11 March 2026
	• Local government employee pay day superannuation amendments to align with Commonwealth laws.	• 1 July 2026

Local Government Legislation (Empowering Councils) Amendment Regulation 2025

Amendments to Local Government Regulation 2012 and City of Brisbane Regulation 2012

Theme	Amendment	Date Effective
Empowering local governments	• Disposal of a valuable non-current asset (e.g. land), other than by tender or auction if councils considers its in public interest	• 12 December 2025
	• Local governments, other than BCC, may grant concessions to ratepayers due to cost of living in the area	• 12 December 2025
	• Increase contracting thresholds (medium-sized ($21,000 or more) and large-sized ($280,000 or more)) and automatic indexation mechanism to allow threshold to increase annually with CPI	• 12 December 2025
	• Local governments may change discount period for early payment of rates if there are extraordinary circumstances	• 12 December 2025
Removing unnecessary red tape	• Removal of requirement for Minister to grant extensions of time by which a local government must adopt their annual report	• 12 December 2025
	• Removal of requirement for local governments to notify Minister of reportable losses	• 12 December 2025
	• Removal of requirement to include an annual performance plan for each commercial business unit of a local government	• 12 December 2025
	• Removal of prohibition on councillors using discretionary funds in a local government election year (from 1 January to the conclusion of the election)	• 12 December 2025
	• Removal of requirement to obtain a Ministerial exemption for local governments to not meet once in a month, if impractical to do so, e.g. disease outbreak, severe weather events	• 12 December 2025
Clarifying councillor remuneration	• A mayor's and deputy mayor's remuneration may only be decreased, by council resolution, by same proportion as all other councillors	• 12 December 2025