

# Office of the Independent Assessor

## Strategic Plan 2021–25

The Office of the Independent Assessor contributes to the Queensland Government's *unite and recover objectives for the community*



**Building Queensland: support councils to drive investment in infrastructure, recovery, resilience and prosperity by ensuring that decision-making is transparent and in the public interest.**



**Growing our regions: help Queensland local governments to be accountable, effective and efficient in driving sustainable economic prosperity.**

### OUR VISION

Strengthen integrity and public trust in the local government sector

### OUR PURPOSE

Hold councillors accountable to the communities they serve

Strengthen a culture of accountability and ethical practice across local government

### OBJECTIVES

Deliver a disciplinary framework that is balanced, timely and effective.

Support and foster a culture of accountability and ethical practice in local government.

### PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Percentage of assessments completed within 21 working days.  
 Percentage of investigations completed within six months.  
 Frivolous, vexatious complaints or those which otherwise result in no further action are identified and dealt with expeditiously.  
 Number of matters prosecuted before the courts and/or the Councillor Conduct Tribunal (CCT).

The number of

- resources provided to key stakeholders to assist them to understand and participate in the councillor conduct disciplinary framework.
- reports and updates published to assist local government to understand and proactively manage misconduct risks.
- targeted prevention strategies progressed in collaboration with stakeholders.

### STRATEGIE

Undertake quality and timely investigations into councillor conduct utilising the range of investigative powers provided.  
 Effectively prosecute disciplinary matters before the CCT or the courts.  
 Develop a workforce culture that fosters professional excellence and innovation.  
 Respond to changes in the environment and jurisdiction arising out of law reform.

Engage proactively and professionally with the local government sector.  
 Utilise complaints data to identify opportunities to strengthen accountabilities and ethical practice.  
 Work with other stakeholders to provide targeted activities, resources and guidance for councillors in relation to recurring or high-risk areas of councillor misconduct.  
 Support councillors to deal with planning and development matters in a manner which is effective, accountable and transparent.

### OUR OPPORTUNITIES ARE:

- Continue to invest in proactive relationships with stakeholders through sound consultation and engagement practices and understanding of the local government context.
- Support and develop an engaged workforce by valuing capability and diversity and recognising and encouraging innovation.
- Support councillors focused on economic recovery to make ethical decisions in the public interest.

### WE STRIVE TO MANAGE RISK BY:

- Use systems and resources as efficiently and effectively as possible.
- Proactive identification of emerging issues.
- Engage with stakeholders to ensure that integrity guidance is consistent and reflects best practice.

### VALUES



Respectful



Courageous



Connected



Transparent



Balanced



Queensland Government