

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [DLGSC Act Review](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Ensuring accountability and transparency in decision-making is vital in Local Government  
**Date:** Friday, 15 March 2019 4:22:11 PM

---

Hi James

I've amended my submission slightly to correct some typos. I'd be grateful if you would replace my earlier text.

Many thanks  
Caroline Bell

It is vital that Elected Member's are held to account by strict and established rules on what conduct is and is not acceptable. We do not want grey areas. What can and cannot be done, not just according to a general and unenforceable code of conduct, but strict rules. For example, 'liking' and interacting with a developer's Facebook page prior to the development application coming before council. Showing bias in newspaper columns and social media, not interacting with the general public about matters of significance that will impact on them, showing impartiality etc.

Too many Elected Members are inexperienced and self-motivated. Yet major decisions about our community are in their hands. This is not right. Imposing strict requirements on conduct will make EMs more conscious of right and wrong and ensure that they act appropriately, in a transparent and accountable manner, at all times. This is of vital importance in restoring faith in Local Government.

On Friday, 15 March 2019, 16:10:48 GMT+8, DLGSC Act Review <[actreview@dlgsc.wa.gov.au](mailto:actreview@dlgsc.wa.gov.au)> wrote:

Hi Caroline,

Thank you for your submission to the Local Government Act review.

The consultation period closes on Sunday, 31 March 2019.

Please note that your submission will be published on the Department's website at the end of the consultation period, unless it is marked confidential.

If you do not wish for your submission to be published, please reply to [actreview@dlgsc.wa.gov.au](mailto:actreview@dlgsc.wa.gov.au).

If you have not already done so, you may wish to complete one or more of the surveys related to local government and the Act available [here](#).

Regards,

James Harmer

Senior Legislation Officer

Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 15 March 2019 1:43 PM  
**To:** DLGSC Act Review <actreview@dlgsc.wa.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Ensuring accountability and transparency in decision-making is vital in Local Government

Dear Local Government Review Body

It is vital that Elected Member's are held to account by strict and established rules on what conduct is and is not acceptable. We do not want grey areas. What can and cannot be done, not just according to a general community and unenforceable code of conduct, but strict rules. For example, 'liking' and interacting with a developer's Facebook page prior to the development application coming before council. Showing bias, not interacting with the general public about matters of significance that will impact on them, showing impartiality etc.

Too many councillors are inexperienced and self-motivated. Yet major decisions about our community are in their hands. This is not right. Imposing strict requirements on conduct will make EMs more conscious of right and wrong and ensure that they act appropriately, in a transparent and accountable manner, at all times. This is of vital importance in restoring faith in Local Government.

Thank you

Caroline Bell

[REDACTED]

