

Local government bulletin

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The Integrity Bill 2009

The *Integrity Bill 2009* was passed by the Queensland Parliament on 25 November 2009. The new *Integrity Act 2009* puts in legislation the current administrative provisions governing the [Register of Lobbyists](#) and bans the payment of success fees. The Act will commence on 1 January 2010.

The Act will also extend the application of current administrative requirements to local government.

This means that lobbyists will need to be listed on the publicly available [Register of Lobbyists](#) before undertaking any lobbying activities with mayors, councillors or local government employees. In addition, former mayors, councillors, chief executives and senior executives of local governments will not be able to undertake lobbying activities in areas with which they have previously had official dealings for a period of two years after leaving office.

The Bill was developed following government consideration of submissions to the *Integrity and Accountability in Queensland* discussion paper and implements the first stage of legislative reform to the state's integrity and accountability framework.

Responsibility for administration of the [Register of Lobbyists](#) will be transferred from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet to the Integrity Commissioner, who will become an independent statutory officer of the Parliament. This will ensure the independence of the lobbyist registration process from executive government.

In addition to legislating for the regulation of the lobbying industry, the Act will implement the government's previously announced commitment to ban the payment of success fees to lobbyists. This measure will ensure that there can be no perception that the payment of a success fee to a lobbyist will secure disproportionate or inappropriate influence with government.

A full copy of the Bill is available on the Office of Queensland Parliamentary Counsel's website at http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/Bill_Pages/Bill_53_09.htm.

The Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) will provide further advice about the operation of the new requirements before the new legislation comes into force on 1 January 2010. For further information, visit the DPC's [Register of Lobbyists](#).

Further information

All recent Local government bulletins issued by the department are available online at: <http://www.dip.qld.gov.au/newsletter/local-government-bulletins.html> .

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