

29 November 2016



Russell Keith
Secretary
Select Committee on Opening Parliament to the People
GPO Box 3721
DARWIN NT 0801

Dear Russell

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE INQUIRY INTO OPENING PARLIAMENT TO THE PEOPLE

I write in response to a letter dated 27 October 2016 to me from the Chair of the Select Committee on Opening the Parliament to the People, the Hon Jeff Collins MLA, inviting LGANT to make a submission to the inquiry.

LGANT is pleased to make this submission and in most respects is in favour of the proposals for establishing two scrutiny committees based on the broad areas of 'Society and Culture' and the 'Economy and the Environment' as mentioned in the *Discussion Paper on Assembly Committee Reform, December 2015*. It supports the ability of organisations and people to be able to have some opportunity for input into draft legislation before it becomes law even if that opportunity is only of limited duration.

While LGANT is in support of having the two scrutiny committees, it does have concerns about the potential volumes of work that the Children, Families and Central Agencies Committee may have and how this could impact on the number of hearings the committee actually holds. In this regard LGANT supports:

- an annual report of this committee's operations which provides details of:
 - the number and titles of Bills referred to the committee and whether they were recommended for amendment or passage
 - the number of public hearings held by the committee and the Bills addressed at those hearings
 - a review of the Committee's operations after its first full year
- the basis for deciding whether a matter goes to a hearing or not.

LGANT is appreciative of being given the opportunity to put a submission to the inquiry and the Executive of LGANT approved this submission at its meeting of 22 November 2016.

Yours sincerely

Tony Tapsell
Chief Executive Officer

Telephone (08) 8944 9688
Fax (08) 8941 2665
Website www.lgant.asn.au

21 Parap Road, Parap, NT, 0820
PO Box 2017, Parap, NT, 0804