

Nomination by Grantley Wilson

Statements addressing the selection criteria:

- demonstrated support of OGP's [Mission and Strategy](#) and the [Open Government Declaration](#);

Since 1996 I have held two senior legal managerial and governance roles in two of Australia's largest local governments (Toowoomba and Gold Coast).

A large part of such roles has entailed advocating for all within my employer entities, to pro-actively champion the principles as espoused in the Preamble to the Qld Right to Information Act :-

*"...1 Parliament recognises that in a free and democratic society—*

*(a) there should be open discussion of public affairs; and*

*(b) information in the government's possession or under the government's control is a public resource; and*

*(c) the community should be kept informed of government's operations, including, in particular, the rules and practice followed by government in its dealings with members of the community; and*

*(d) openness in government enhances the accountability of government; and*

*(e) openness in government increases the participation of members of the community in democratic processes leading to better informed decision-making; and*

*(f) right to information legislation contributes to a healthier representative, democratic government and enhances its practice; and*

*(g) right to information legislation improves public administration and the quality of government decision-making; and*

*(h) right to information legislation is only 1 of a number of measures that should be adopted by government to increase the flow of information in the government's possession or under the government's control to the community.*

*2 The Government is proposing a new approach to access to information. Government information will be released administratively as a matter of course, unless there is a good reason not to, with applications under this Act being necessary only as a last resort.*

*3 It is Parliament's intention to emphasise and promote the right to government information. It is also Parliament's intention to provide a right of access to information in the government's possession or under the government's control unless, on balance, it is contrary to the public interest to provide the information. This Act reflects Parliament's opinion about making information available and the public interest. ...."*

- expertise relevant to the Open Government Partnership, including existing or probable future Australian Open Government commitments;

I have worked nearly exclusively as a QLD lawyer since 1984 and hold the qualifications LLB, MBA, LLM Grad Dip CSP, all of which provide some elements of expertise relevant to the objectives being pursued.

- demonstrated ability to engage broad and diverse community networks;

I was, prior to taking on in-house counsel roles in local government, in a law partnership of 5 principals operating in the provincial Qld City of Ipswich. That role required servicing the legal needs of the entire community. I also served as Chairperson of a charity concerned with encouraging mainstream providers of recreational opportunities to welcome the disabled to their facilities.

More recently I have served for some years on the Qld Law Societies - Government Lawyers Committee and its Construction & Infrastructure Committee.

- previous experience working with and influencing government;

Since 1996 I have held two senior legal managerial and governance roles in two of Australia's largest local governments.

- the desirability of maintaining some continuity between successive Forums, balanced with the desirability of reaching new communities and reflecting emerging open government priorities.

I would be happy to seek to add value as best I am able.