



# **Public Interest Review Consultation Paper**

## **Proposed new Local Laws and Subordinate Local Laws**

**November 2025**

## 1. Purpose of this document

Before making a local law, local governments are required to review any laws that restrict competition to ensure that they are in the public interest. At a Gympie Regional Council (GRC) meeting on 29 October 2025, the Council proposed to make the following Local Laws and Subordinate Local Laws, which were developed following a review of Council's current local laws:

- (a) proposed **Amendment Local Law No. 1 (Miscellaneous) 2026**, which contains miscellaneous amendments to the following current GRC laws:
  - *Local Law No. 1 (Administration) 2011*;
  - *Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2011*;
  - *Local Law No. 3 (Community and Environmental Management) 2011*
- (b) proposed **Amendment Subordinate Local Law No. 1 (Miscellaneous) 2026**, which contains miscellaneous amendments to the following current GRC laws:
  - *Subordinate Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2011*;
  - *Subordinate Local Law No. 3 (Community and Environmental Management) 2011*
  - *Subordinate Local Law No. 4 (Local Government Controlled Areas, Facilities and Roads) 2011*
- (c) proposed **Subordinate Local Law No.1 (Administration) 2026**, which replaces in its entirety the following current GRC law:
  - *Subordinate Local Law No.1 (Administration) 2011*
- (d) proposed **Local Law No.7 (Aerodromes) 2026**, an entirely new local law;
- (e) proposed **Subordinate Local Law No.7 (Aerodromes) 2026**, an entirely new subordinate local law.

All of the proposed new local laws contain provisions that have the potential to restrict competition (i.e. they may be 'anti-competitive provisions'), so Council is consulting with the community – especially businesses that might be affected – about whether the proposed law is in the overall public interest. The purpose of this document is to:

- provide further information about the potentially anti-competitive provisions; and
- seek community feedback to help Council decide whether the potentially anti-competitive provisions should be retained in the proposed local laws in the overall public interest.

## 2. Background to public interest reviews

### Why are public interest reviews required?

In April 1995, all Australian governments committed to the National Competition Policy to establish a national approach to achieve greater economic efficiency and to improve the overall competitiveness of the Australian economy. One of the key principles of the National Competition Policy was a commitment that all governments, including local governments, would not make laws that restricted competition unless it could be demonstrated that:

- the benefits of the restriction to the community as a whole outweighed the costs, and
- the objectives of the law could only be achieved by restricting competition.

To give effect to this principle, governments agreed to review all laws that restrict competition. For local governments, this requirement is enshrined in section 38 of the *Local Government Act 2009*, which states that a Council must not make a local law that contains an anti-competitive provision unless it has complied with the procedures prescribed by the State for the review of anti-competitive provisions. These procedures are contained in the *National Competition Policy – Guidelines for conducting reviews on anti-competitive provisions in local laws*, Version 1, made by the State Government (the ‘Public Interest Review guidelines’).

### What is an anti-competitive provision?

An anti-competitive provision is a provision that the local government identifies as creating a barrier to: (a) entry to a market; or (b) competition within a market.

#### (a) Creating barriers to entering a market

The Public Interest Review guidelines describe this type of anti-competitive provision in a local law as either prohibiting particular business activities or placing obligations on the operators of business activities.

#### (b) Restricting competition in the market

The Public Interest Review guidelines describe this type of anti-competitive provision as giving some benefit or imposing some hindrance on particular business operators.

## 3. Possible anti-competitive provisions in the local laws

The new aerodrome local law and its supporting subordinate local law contain provisions to regulate the use of Council’s aerodrome, which are possibly anti-competitive because they may create barriers to entry to market for businesses using the aerodrome.

The other proposed new local laws and subordinate local laws make changes to the current suite of local laws and subordinate local laws made by Council in 2011. They are the result of a review of Council’s local laws to modernise and update the provisions and ensure they meet the current needs of the Gympie Region. While most of these changes are minor, in some cases additional provisions that have been included to address gaps or deal with issues affecting the community may have a possible anti-competitive effect, because they may place additional obligations on businesses or restrict certain activities that businesses may be undertaking.

An analysis of the proposed local laws has identified the following provisions that are possibly anti-competitive.

Table 1. Possible anti-competitive provisions

Ref	Possible anti-competitive provision	Analysis of effect on competition
<b>Amendment Local Law No. 1 (Miscellaneous) 2026</b>		
(A)	<p><b>Section 9 – amendment to Local Law No.1, Schedule 2 (Prescribed activities) to insert ‘operation of short stay accommodation’</b></p> <p>Council has created a new category of activity in the list of prescribed activities that require Council approval. The new approval – operation of short stay accommodation – is required where a resident provides or makes available (on a commercial basis), short stay accommodation for more than 30 cumulative nights in a financial year.</p>	<p>This change will create a barrier to entry to the accommodation market because a resident will need to obtain an approval to operate a short stay accommodation. An approval holder will have to comply with certain conditions set out in the approval, as set out in the new schedule in proposed Subordinate Local Law No.1 (Administration) 2026.</p>
(B)	<p><b>Section 9 – amendment to Local Law No.1, Schedule 2 (Prescribed activities) to insert ‘temporary placement of a shipping container’</b></p> <p>Council has created a new category of activity in the list of prescribed activities that require Council approval. The new approval – temporary placement of a shipping container – is required where a resident places a shipping container on a residential property for a purpose other than temporary use as a place of residence (for example, for storage) on a temporary basis that does not trigger building approval requirements. The relevant schedule in Subordinate Local Law No.1 (Administration) 2026 will, however, exempt situations where the shipping container is in place for less than 90 days on an urban property or less than 180 days on a rural property, provided it doesn’t impact amenity, environment and safety of traffic. Shipping containers placed on construction sites are also exempt from approval during the construction period.</p>	<p>Although the principal intent is to regulate temporary placement of shipping containers on residential and not commercial properties, these amendments have the potential to impact on businesses conducted from residential premises. The imposition of restrictions on the temporary placement of a shipping container for certain purposes and the need for an approval to undertake the prescribed activity may impact the conduct of a business activity as additional costs may be incurred. The requirement for an approval could also represent a barrier to businesses entering a relevant market.</p>
(C)	<p><b>Section 36 – amendment to Local Law No.3 to insert new section 20B re shopping trolleys</b></p> <p>A new section 20B inserted in <i>Local Law No.3 (Community and Environmental Management) 2011</i> will require the owner or occupier of a shop that provides shopping trolleys to take reasonable measures to ensure all shopping trolleys remain in the shopping centre precinct. Examples of reasonable measures are requiring a deposit to use trolleys, or conducting a daily round-up or trolleys from the area surrounding the shopping centre precinct.</p>	<p>This change will impose new requirements on shop owners that provide shopping trolleys, which will be a cost to business that is a barrier to entry to market.</p>
(D)	<p><b>Section 36 – amendment to Local Law No.3 to insert new section 20D re scare guns</b></p> <p>A new section 20D inserted in <i>Local Law No.3 (Community and Environmental Management) 2011</i> will place various requirements on property owners/ occupiers using scare guns.</p>	<p>This change will impose new requirements on farmers and other residents who use scare guns to deter pest birds.</p>
(E)	<p><b>Section 41 – amendment to the requirements for collection of waste</b></p>	<p>This provision may place additional requirements on business owners who leave bins out for collection at</p>

	An amendment to section 21F of <i>Local Law No.3 (Community and Environmental Management) 2011</i> will provide that bins can only be left out at the collection point (for example, on the street kerb) for 24 hours on either side of the collection day. The exception is when collection day is Monday, in which case bins can be left out from Friday.	commercial premises where they are not in full-time attendance. They will have to attend the premises on the day before and after collection day to ensure the bins are not left out for longer than permitted.
(F)	<p><b>Sections 42-43 - amendment to the requirements for storing general waste</b></p> <p>Amendment to section 21F and 21J of <i>Local Law No.3 (Community and Environmental Management) 2011</i> will provide that residents and occupiers of properties must ensure there is adequate space to store the number of bins required for the premises.</p>	This requirement may affect property developers by having to provide more space for storage of bins.
<b>Subordinate Local Law No. 1 (Administration) 2026</b>		
(G)	<p><b>Schedule 1 (Prescribed activities that do not require an approval under the authorising local law) and Schedules 12-15 – removal of exemption from approval for four categories of prescribed activity</b></p> <p>In Council's 2011 local laws, Council had made an exemption for the usual requirement for residents to apply for an approval to operate a:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• camping ground,</li> <li>• caravan park,</li> <li>• public swimming pool, or</li> <li>• shared facility accommodation.</li> </ul> <p>Council proposes to remove these exemptions from Schedule 1 of Subordinate Local Law No.1, so these activities will now require an annual approval from Council. The application requirements, criteria, and usual conditions for these approvals are set out in the new Schedules 12-15 of the Subordinate Local Law. Some of the conditions are set out in the schedules, while additional standards are set out in the separate GRC document, Standards for the Conduct of Prescribed Activities.</p>	This change will create a barrier to entry to the market because a resident will need to obtain an approval to operate a camping ground, caravan park, public swimming pool, or shared facility accommodation.
(H)	<p><b>Schedule 11 (Operation of temporary entertainment events) – amendment to section 2 exemptions from approval</b></p> <p>The 2011 law provided an exemption from needing an approval for any temporary entertainment event held on non-Council controlled land and attended by less than 1000 people. The proposed new law would reduce the threshold to 500 people.</p>	The change may impact on businesses that organise temporary entertainment events attended by between 500 to 1000 people because they would now be required to seek and approval where they were previously exempt.
<b>Amendment Subordinate Local Law No. 1 (Miscellaneous) 2026</b>		
(I)	<p><b>Section 4 – amendment of definition of 'urban property' in Subordinate Local Law No.2 (Animal Management) 2011</b></p> <p>The current definition of <i>urban property</i> excludes blocks in urban areas that are over 4000m<sup>2</sup>. This means that they are</p>	The change may impact business owners who currently keep animals on larger blocks in urban areas, as these may become prohibited or require approvals. For example, a 'petting farm' or horse riding

	<p>currently exempt from some of the prohibitions and permit requirements for keeping animals such as horses, cattle, sheep, alpacas, goats, geese, ducks, roosters, poultry etc.</p> <p>The proposed amendment would remove this exemption.</p>	<p>business that kept animals in urban areas might be affected. This would create a barrier to entry to market that does not currently exist.</p>
(J)	<p><b>Section 11 – amendment of minimum standards for keeping particular animals in Subordinate Local Law No.2 (Animal Management) 2011</b></p> <p>The proposed amendment imposes new minimum standards for keeping birds, honey bees and pigeons.</p>	<p>The changes may impact businesses that keep these animals by imposing additional requirements.</p>
(K)	<p><b>Section 20 and section 24 – addition of new community safety hazard and prescribed requirements in Subordinate Local Law No.3 (Community and Environmental Management) 2011</b></p> <p>The proposed amendment to section 9 of Local Law No.3 lists some new community safety hazards, including an electric fence along a boundary with public land. The amendment to schedule 4 includes some prescribed requirements for these fences that must be met by property owners (such as setbanks from public land in urban areas or used as security fences).</p>	<p>The changes may impact on businesses that use electric fences on boundaries with public land as they will need to meet the safety requirements in schedule 4.</p>
<p><b>Local Law No. 7 (Aerodromes) 2026</b></p>		
(L)	<p><b>Part 2 Use and operation of an aerodrome (sections 5-14)</b></p> <p>This Part contains a number of powers for Council to regulate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the use and operation of the aerodrome by aircraft</li> <li>• aircraft parking</li> <li>• use of vehicles, plant and equipment within an aerodrome or the airside area</li> <li>• use of buildings or facilities</li> <li>• safety and security</li> <li>• insurance requirements</li> </ul>	<p>While Council already has the power to regulate use of its aerodrome as the owner of the facility, the local law makes its rules and requirements enforceable through fines. The impact of the local law provisions is to potentially increase the level of regulation of businesses whose aircraft use the aerodrome, which will increase barriers to entry to the market.</p>
(M)	<p><b>Part 4 Prevention of hazards to aircraft (sections 17-18)</b></p> <p>These provisions enables Council to require land owners or occupiers near aerodromes to take various actions to reduce potential hazards to aircraft.</p>	<p>It is possible that action taken under this provision could affect the activities of a business near an aerodrome, increasing the compliance costs to business and therefore barriers to entry to market.</p>
<p><b>Subordinate Local Law No. 7 (Aerodromes) 2026</b></p>		
(N)	<p><b>Sections 5 to 8 - Use of buildings or facilities, safety requirements, security requirements and insurance requirements</b></p> <p>Pursuant to the heads of power in Part 2 of the local law, these provisions prescribe various conditions and requirements for use of buildings/facilities, safety, security and insurance relating to an aerodrome</p>	<p>As above, this regulation may create additional requirements to be met by businesses using the aerodrome.</p>

## 4. Anti-competitive provisions excluded from the review

The Public Interest Review guidelines indicate that the following types of anti-competitive provisions may be excluded from a public interest review:

- 1) local laws regulating the behaviour of individuals
- 2) local laws dealing solely with internal administrative procedures of a local government
- 3) local laws intended as legitimate measures to combat the spread of pests and disease
- 4) local laws to ensure accepted public health and safety standards are met
- 5) repealing local laws.

Council has excluded the provisions in Table 2 from further review as they meet one of these exclusions.

*Table 2. Provisions excluded from review*

Ref	Potential anti-competitive provision	Reason for exclusion
<b>Subordinate Local Law No. 1 (Administration) 2026</b>		
(J)	<b>Section 11 – amendment of minimum standards for keeping particular animals in <i>Subordinate Local Law No.2 (Animal Management) 2011</i></b>	This provision is to ensure accepted public health and safety standards are met, and is also intended as a legitimate measure to combat the spread of pests and disease
(K)	<b>Section 20 and section 24 – addition of new community safety hazard and prescribed requirements in <i>Subordinate Local Law No.3 (Community and Environmental Management) 2011</i></b>	These provisions are to ensure accepted public health and safety standards are met
<b>Local Law No. 7 (Aerodromes) 2026</b>		
(L)	<b>Part 2 Use and operation of an aerodrome (sections 5-14)</b>	These provisions are to ensure accepted public health and safety standards are met
(M)	<b>Part 4 Prevention of hazards to aircraft (sections 17-18)</b>	These provisions are to ensure accepted public health and safety standards are met
<b>Subordinate Local Law No. 7 (Aerodromes) 2026</b>		
(N)	<b>Sections 5 to 8 - Use of buildings or facilities, safety requirements, security requirements and insurance requirements</b>	These provisions are to ensure accepted public health and safety standards are met, and many of the requirements regulate the behaviour of individuals

Many of the other potential anti-competitive provisions may be characterised as intended to combat the spread of pests and disease and ensure accepted public health and safety standards are met – for example, regulating camping grounds, caravan parks, public swimming pools and shared facility accommodation (provision (G)), or the provisions about waste management (provisions (E) and (F)). However, Council has decided not to exclude them from the review on these grounds. Regulating activities to promote and protect community health and amenity is always a balancing act with minimising ‘red tape’ that potentially impacts on business activities.

Council takes the view that it is important to have a public discussion around laws that seek to strike this balance.

## 5. Preliminary assessment of significance of impacts of anti-competitive provisions

Under the Public Interest Review guidelines, Council is not required to undertake a public interest review of any anti-competitive provisions that Council considers, following a preliminary assessment, to have no significant impacts.

However, Council's preliminary assessment is that it cannot rule out that there may be significant impacts from the anti-competitive provisions. Therefore, it is prudent to conduct a full public interest review of all of the anti-competitive provisions not excluded under the previous part.

## 6. Discussion of the anti-competitive provisions

### Objective of the provisions

The overall objective of the proposed local laws and subordinate local laws, including the identified anti-competitive provisions, is to ensure the local regulatory regime in the Gympie Regional Council area remains appropriate, responsive and current. Although the amendments are broad-ranging, their specific objects are related to Council's core concerns of protecting community health, safety and amenity and preventing environmental harm.

### Rationale for the anti-competitive provisions

The Gympie Regional Council's rationale for each of the potentially anti-competitive provisions that are part of this public interest review is set out in Table 3.

*Table 3. Rationale for provisions*

Ref	Possible anti-competitive provision	Rationale
<b>Amendment Local Law No. 1 (Miscellaneous) 2026</b>		
(A)	<b>Section 9 – amendment to Local Law No.1, Schedule 2 (Prescribed activities) to insert 'operation of short stay accommodation'</b>	Council regularly receives complaints from neighbours and community members about the impacts on neighbourhood amenity of short-stay accommodation such as holiday rentals. The new requirement for an approval will enable Council to ensure minimum standards are in place to manage neighbourhood impacts. The requirement for someone to be contactable about any issues that arise will assist in proactively dealing with issues caused by occupants of this form of accommodation.
(B)	<b>Section 9 – amendment to Local Law No.1, Schedule 2 (Prescribed activities) to insert 'temporary placement of a shipping container'</b>	There is currently uncertainty about the rules around placing a shipping container on residential property. While a permanent installation (for example, as a long-term storage shed, work shed or living space) requires building approval, it is not clear how long a container can be placed temporarily. The proposed provision clarifies that no approval is required for placement for less than 90 days on an urban property or less than 180 days on a rural property, as long as it does not impact on amenity, environment and safety of traffic. If these criteria are not met or a longer period is required, an approval must be sought. This will enable the Council to

		manage the placement of shipping containers to ensure they do not impact the amenity or safety within the community.
(C)	<b>Section 36 – amendment to Local Law No.3 to insert new section 20B re shopping trolleys</b>	Abandoned shopping trolleys create safety hazards and affect the amenity and environment of the Gympie region. The new provision will require shop owners to be more proactive in preventing shopping trolleys from being taken off the shopping centre precinct.
(D)	<b>Section 36 – amendment to Local Law No.3 to insert new section 20D re scare guns</b>	The new requirements about use of scare guns mirror the guidelines for use suggested by the Department of Environment. Their rationale is to manage the impacts on neighbours and the environment.
(E)	<b>Section 41 – amendment to the requirements for collection of waste</b>	Waste containers left on the street for long periods affect the amenity of the community, create hazards for pedestrians and vehicles and may create environmental health risks. Council receives regular complaints about this. The new provision sets clear timeframes about how long it is reasonable to leave waste containers out for collection.
(F)	<b>Sections 42-43 - amendment to the requirements for storing general waste</b>	A lack of space provided for storage of multiple waste containers at apartment blocks and other multiple residences creates health, safety and amenity risks. The rationale for this provision is to require property owners to provide adequate space for waste containers to be stored.
<b>Subordinate Local Law No. 1 (Administration) 2026</b>		
(G)	<b>Schedule 1 (Prescribed activities that do not require an approval under the authorising local law) and Schedules 12-15 – removal of exemption from approval for four categories of prescribed activity</b>	The community expects local governments to ensure that camping grounds, caravan parks, public swimming pools, and shared facility accommodation facilities are operated in a way that protects community health, safety and amenity. In the Gympie Region, these facilities currently do not require annual approvals due to the exemption in the local law. The amendment enables the Council to set clear standards around the running of these facilities, based on commonly accepted standards across Queensland, which can be enforced through annual inspections and granting of permits.
(H)	<b>Schedule 11 (Operation of temporary entertainment events) – amendment to section 2 exemptions from approval</b>	Temporary entertainment events attended by 500 to 1000 people have significant impacts on neighbourhoods (for example, traffic and parking) and potential risks to participants if appropriate event management plans are not in place. The amendment ensures that convenors of large events over 500 people seek approval from Council, ensuring they meet required standards.
<b>Amendment Subordinate Local Law No. 1 (Miscellaneous) 2026</b>		
(I)	<b>Section 4 – amendment of definition of ‘urban property’ in Subordinate Local Law No.2 (Animal Management) 2011</b>	The current exemption for larger urban blocks means a variety of non-domestic animals (e.g. horses and cattle) and animals that can potentially cause nuisance (e.g. roosters) can be kept within urban areas. The amendment will create consistent rules about animal-keeping across urban areas, while enabling Council to consider applications for approval in appropriate circumstances.

## Examination of reasonable alternatives to the anti-competitive provisions

The public interest review process requires consideration of reasonable alternatives to anti-competitive provisions. Table 4 sets out possible alternatives to the local law provisions.

Table 4. Examination of alternatives

Ref	Possible anti-competitive provision	Alternatives to the local law provision
<b>Amendment Local Law No. 1 (Miscellaneous) 2026</b>		
(A)	<b>Section 9 – amendment to Local Law No.1, Schedule 2 (Prescribed activities) to insert ‘operation of short stay accommodation’</b>	<p><b>Planning Scheme</b> A possible alternative means of regulating short stay accommodation would be through Council’s planning scheme. Under this approach, planning scheme and development approvals issued under it would create conditions around these premises. This might end up being more onerous and less flexible than a local law approval. Another disadvantage is that Council would not be able to regulate existing businesses, as planning scheme requirements would only be applicable to new developments. Council officers have also found that conditions of development approvals are more difficult to enforce than local law approval conditions, leading to less ability to respond to community complaints.</p> <p><b>Public information and education</b> An alternative to any regulatory scheme is to encourage the desired behaviour and practices through public information and education. A disadvantage of this option is that it is resource-intensive and holds no guarantee that it will result in better management of neighbourhood impacts by operators of short stay accommodation.</p>
(B)	<b>Section 9 – amendment to Local Law No.1, Schedule 2 (Prescribed activities) to insert ‘temporary placement of a shipping container’</b>	<p><b>Public information and education</b> Council could publish guidelines for residents about appropriate placement of shipping containers to minimise community impacts. A disadvantage of this voluntary compliance approach is that Council would have limited enforcement options when responding to complaints.</p>
(C)	<b>Section 36 – amendment to Local Law No.3 to insert new section 20B re shopping trolleys</b>	<p><b>Public information and education</b> Public information could encourage residents not to remove and abandon trolleys from shopping centres. The disadvantage of this approach is that it relies on being able to change the behaviour of residents who remove trolleys. This might be more difficult than requiring shop owners to prevent trolleys from leaving shopping centres.</p> <p><b>Direct Council action</b> Council officers could regularly retrieve shopping trolleys and return them to shopping centre precincts. This would require additional dedication of Council resources to this work. Council staff already remove trolleys that are abandoned in waterways and parks.</p>
(D)	<b>Section 36 – amendment to Local Law No.3 to insert new section 20D re scare guns</b>	<p><b>Public information and education</b> Council could encourage property owners to voluntarily comply with State Government guidelines about appropriate use of scare guns. A disadvantage of this approach is that Council would have limited enforcement options when responding to complaints.</p> <p><b>Case by case enforcement of noise nuisance</b> Council has powers under the Environmental Protection Act to take action in cases of noise nuisance. A disadvantage of this approach is that it is reactive, rather than setting out standards that are intended to prevent noise nuisance. The EPA provisions about noise nuisance are more difficult to enforce than local law provisions.</p>
(E)	<b>Section 41 – amendment to the requirements for collection of waste</b>	<p><b>Public information and education</b> Council could encourage residents not to leave their bins out for extended periods, raising awareness of the safety and health risks.</p>

		A disadvantage of the voluntary compliance approach is that Council would have limited tools to deal with problem situations.
(F)	<b>Sections 42-43 – amendment to the requirements for storing general waste</b>	<b>Planning scheme</b> Development approvals could contain more specific requirements around the amount of space for storage of waste containers. A disadvantage of this approach is that Council would not be able to regulate existing businesses, as planning scheme requirements would only be applicable to new developments.
<b>Subordinate Local Law No. 1 (Administration) 2026</b>		
(G)	<b>Schedule 1 (Prescribed activities that do not require an approval under the authorising local law) and Schedules 12-15 – removal of exemption from approval for four categories of prescribed activity</b>	<b>Public information and education</b> Council could encourage operators of camping grounds, caravan parks, public swimming pools, and shared facility accommodation facilities to follow best practice standards to protect community health, safety and amenity. This would require a Council communication campaign. <b>Public Health Act enforcement</b> Council has current powers to deal with public health and safety risks under State legislation. This option would rely on complaints to Council because there would not be annual inspections for the local law approval process. Enforcement action under the Public Health Act may be more difficult than enforcing the local law provision.
(H)	<b>Schedule 11 (Operation of temporary entertainment events) – amendment to section 2 exemptions from approval</b>	<b>Public information and education</b> Council could rely on a voluntary compliance framework where operators follow guidelines and information for events provided by the Council.
<b>Amendment Subordinate Local Law No. 1 (Miscellaneous) 2026</b>		
(I)	<b>Section 4 – amendment of definition of ‘urban property’ in <i>Subordinate Local Law No.2 (Animal Management) 2011</i></b>	<b>Environmental Protection Act enforcement</b> Where an animal kept in an urban area is causing a nuisance (e.g. noise from roosters or odour from cattle), Council officers could use EPA nuisance provisions to take enforcement action. The penalties for nuisances are higher than local law breaches. On the other hand, the local law enforcement process is more straightforward. The application of the standard animal-keeping rules to larger urban blocks is also more likely to prevent nuisances occurring in the first place.

### Current assessment of alternatives

On balance, the Council currently does not believe the above alternatives to instituting the anti-competitive local law provisions will adequately achieve the objective of protecting the public interests around health, safety and amenity regarding the activities in question. However, as part of this further review of the anti-competitive provisions during the public consultation process, the Council is keen to hear the views of businesses and residents about the anti-competitive provisions, their potential impacts and any reasonable alternatives.

## 7. Call for feedback about the anti-competitive provisions

Council invites feedback from residents and businesses about potential impacts of the proposed local laws discussed in this paper, especially:

- any costs of compliance for businesses;
- any reasonable alternatives to the anti-competitive provisions and the comparable costs of these alternatives;
- the benefits to the community from the anti-competitive provisions.

Community feedback will assist Council to decide whether, on balance, the anti-competitive provisions should be retained in the proposed local law in the overall public interest.

The due date for submissions is 31 January 2026. Options for making submissions online, by email or by post can be found at: [www.gympie.qld.gov.au](http://www.gympie.qld.gov.au)