

**8/11/2018**

**Personal submission of Chris Cornish**

**Beneficial Enterprises -**

I support Local Governments having the ability to establish beneficial enterprises.

**Financial Management -**

The current restrictions on “investments” are counter productive and should be changed so that property & equities can be used. More - <https://chriscornish.info/is-cash-the-best-place/>

I support the procurement being increased to \$250k if it reduces red-tape.

I support updating the financial ratios.

I support building upgrade finance as long as the local government costs can be recouped.

An area of general financial concern is the inability for a local government to recoup their costs due to the state government setting fee limits.

**Rates, fees and charges -**

You are adding more red tape by legislating the requirement to develop and consult on a rates and revenue strategy. That said, the City of Bayswater is doing this to an extent not seen in metro Perth before. More - <https://chriscornish.info/participatory-budgeting/>

I support Budget meetings being public and allowing a Cr to pull a line item and take it to a vote. More - <https://chriscornish.info/participatory-budgeting/>

I support the removal of rates exemptions.

I support local governments continuing to have the ability to develop their own rating strategy.

**Administrative efficiencies -**

I do not support Model Local Laws. Don't task the “local” out of local government.

I do not support a mandatory 8 year review. A review should be done when the local government believes it is necessary.

I do not support the grants commission and LGAB being combined. They have different areas of speciality.

The grants commission membership requirements need to be updated. The requirement for a member from ‘metro’, ‘country rural’ and ‘country urban’ is approximately 19 years outdated and no longer consistent with everything else. It should be a member/s from ‘metro’ and ‘country’.

## **Council Meetings -**

I do not support a public statement time.

I do not support questions when person asking is not present. If someone wants to email in questions, they are always very welcome, and a response will be provided in due course. It should not be tied to the council meeting.

An amendment to s5.62 LG Act '95 is required. 'Closely associated persons' needs to definitely include parents and siblings; not just a spouse and child. Ideally it should mirror the 'relative' definition as given in the Act.

I believe someone should be able to claim an impartiality interest and leave the chamber. Good governance accepts that a conflict, in the public eyes, can be real or simply perceived. A Councillor should be able to leave if they believe the public may perceive there is a conflict of interest.

I support the continuation of special electors meetings but a raising to 500 required signatures.

I support the continuation of annual meetings.

I support the ability for council to review a CEO's determination not to provide information to a councillor.

I support the CEO having responsibility for the keeping of minutes.

I do not support a Model Standing Orders. Don't take the 'local' out of local government.

## **Interventions –**

I support minor and serious breach complaints being sent to the director general.

I support including CEO's and employees in the "improper use of position" requirements.

I support including in the act a requirement for staff to not knowingly providing false or misleading information.

I support greater penalties for deliberately breaching tender requirements.

I support a default penalty for offences not specifically referred to in local laws.

I strongly support giving local governments the ability to more easily enforce requirements to remove disused materials and secure buildings.

## **Community engagement, IPR –**

No further legislation required.

## **Complaints management –**

A list of all complaints, and their handling, should be reported to the audit & risk committee.

## **Elections –**

I do not support compulsory voting.

I do not support the option for preferential voting; it should remain first past the post.

I support property owners being able to vote. They are the ones paying rates.

I support postal and electronic voting.

I support 2 yearly elections. It provides continuity on councils.

I support council elected mayors. <https://chriscornish.info/method-electing-mayor/>

It should be compulsory to have a ward system in large local governments.

I do not support the electoral commissioner being empowered to oversee the establishment of wards and ward boundaries.

There should be penalties for misleading and deliberately incorrect election material. This is an essential requirement.

I support greater disclosures in the candidate profiles – education, work are examples

I do not support imposing limits on campaign spending, especially as it would not include the time factor from volunteers. It would allow political parties to utilise their members and not have it listed as a cost of the campaign.

Campaign donations should mirror the donation rules for councillors. It is absurd that it doesn't already.

I support the prohibition of property developer donations to all forms of governments.