

## **Review of Local Government Act 1995 Phase 2**

### **City of Wanneroo Council Submission**

This submission by the City of Wanneroo was approved by Council on 5 March 2019 and sets out the City of Wanneroo's position in respect of the Phase 2 consultation paper into the review of the Local Government Act 1995 - "Agile, Smart, Inclusive – Local Governments for the Future".

Any references to the **Act** are references to the Local Government Act 1995. **CEO** means the Chief Executive Officer. **Department** means the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries. **Elected Members** means the members of a local government council elected by that local government's constituents.

Administrative efficiencies	Response	Comments
To what extent do you support the following statements?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“All local governments regardless of their size should have the same level of powers and responsibilities.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>The Act currently treats all local governments the same, regardless of their size and capacity. Through their peak bodies, the local government sector has long advocated for amendments which provide a tailored approach to local government governance to allow for the differences in capacity that are found across the State. Additional support by the Department may be required for those local governments that do not have the capacity or limited resources.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“The functions of the Grants Commission and the Advisory Board should be combined under one Board.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>The Advisory Board to also be responsible for Local Government Ward Boundary reviews.</p> <p>May need flexibility for both at certain times.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Membership of the Local Government Advisory Board and the Local Government Grants Commission should be required to be drawn from specific geographic locations, for example, metropolitan Perth as well as regional and remote Western Australia.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Prior to conducting a poll to change the method of election of the Mayor/President from election by electors to election by the council, the local government should be required to draft the question and summaries and submit the question to the Advisory Board.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“The Advisory Board should not assess a proposal for changes to boundaries that does not meet the minimum requirements.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>Advisory Board to determine.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“The petition of affected electors should require each signatory to sign an acknowledgement that they have read the summary of the proposal and have seen a plan or map detailing</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral	<p>The processes to undertake Ward boundary reviews is already quite complex and convoluted and this further requirement does not seem to achieve a specific desired outcome.</p>

Administrative efficiencies	Response	Comments
any proposed changes.”	<input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“The affected local government(s) should be provided with a copy of the proposal prior to it being submitted to the Advisory Board.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“The applicant should be able to withdraw a proposal at any time prior to a recommendation being made to the Minister, providing there are circumstances which, in the Advisory Board’s view, warrant withdrawal of the proposal.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
i) Currently a proposal to the Advisory Board from the community must be signed by 250 people or 10% of the community whichever is less. Should proposals from districts with a population over 5,000 be increased to 500 signatures?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
To what extent do you support the following statements?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“People need the power to impound stray cattle.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local governments need the power to impound stray cattle.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	Yes, through local laws that are developed for the specific requirements to the local government’s district.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“People need the power to detain and dispose of stray goats, pigs and poultry.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	

Administrative efficiencies	Response	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Offences that apply to pound keepers should also apply to similar facilities maintained by local governments, for example cats and dogs.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>Local governments should be subject to the same requirements as private operators.</p>
<p>Which of the following pieces of information should be provided by local governments to the Department and the Minister for Local Government?</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) s 4.79 Provide a report on the result of an election (ordinary or extra-ordinary election)</li> <li>b) s 5.3 Advise of the failure to hold council meetings within the last 3 months</li> <li>c) s 7.12A Provide a copy of the report that addresses the issues identified in the audit report</li> <li>d) LG (Audit) Reg 14 Provide a copy of the compliance audit report</li> <li>e) LG (Audit) Reg 15 Provide a certified copy of the compliance audit return</li> <li>f) LG (Constitution) Reg 11FA Provide a report on the result of an election (election of Mayor/President and Deputy Mayor/President)</li> <li>g) LG (Constitution) Reg 11H Advise the outcome of the Court of Disputed Returns (election of Mayor/President and Deputy Mayor/President)</li> <li>h) LG (Constitution) Form 2 Request for a poll on a recommended amalgamation</li> <li>i) LG (Elections) Reg 86 Advise the outcome of the Court of Disputed Returns (ordinary or extra-ordinary election)</li> <li>j) LG (Financial Management) Reg 33 Provide a copy of the annual budget</li> <li>k) LG (Financial Management) Reg 33A Provide a copy of the review and determination of the reviewed annual budget</li> <li>l) LG (Financial Management) Reg 51 Provide</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (a) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (c) <input type="checkbox"/> (d) <input type="checkbox"/> (e) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (f) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (g) <input type="checkbox"/> (h) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (i) <input type="checkbox"/> (j) <input type="checkbox"/> (k) <input type="checkbox"/> (l)	<p>Local governments are autonomous entities. Only to the extent that they are required to be regulated and overseen by the Minister, should local governments provide any information to the Minister.</p> <p>Question the value of the annual Compliance Audit Return considering that the same questions have been asked by the Department for 5 consecutive years with minimal change and no feedback. Processes and provision of information (consider the resources required to respond) must have a purpose and provide value and opportunities to improve.</p>

Administrative efficiencies	Response	Comments
a copy of the annual financial report		
Which of the following decisions should be made by the Minister?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) s 2.25 Approval for a leave of absences greater than six consecutive council meetings</li> <li>b) s 3.53 Ordering which local government is responsible for managing a facility that is located within two or more districts (only when the local governments themselves do not agree about how to manage the facility)</li> <li>c) s 3.59 Commencing or undertaking a major land transaction or trading undertaking (as required under the regulations)</li> <li>d) s 3.61 Establishing a regional local government</li> <li>e) s 3.65 Amending the establishment agreement of a regional local government</li> <li>f) s 3.69 Establishing a regional subsidiary</li> <li>g) s 3.70 Amendment to a regional subsidiary's charter</li> <li>h) s 5.7 Reducing the number of people required for a quorum or absolute majority</li> <li>i) s 5.69 Approval to participate in a meeting (after disclosing an interest)</li> <li>j) s 5.69A Exemption from some or all disclosure of interest requirements for committee members</li> <li>k) s 6.35 Minimum payment of rates on vacant land</li> <li>l) s 6.74 Approval to re-vest land to the State for non-payment of rates</li> <li>m) s 9.63 Direction to two or more local governments on how to resolve a dispute</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> (a)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> (b)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> (c)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> (d)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> (e)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> (f)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> (g)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> (h)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> (i)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> (j)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> (k)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> (l)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> (m)</li> </ul>	<p>Local governments are autonomous entities with Councils that are democratically elected. The Minister should have very limited powers (if any at all) to make any decisions that affect a local government.</p>
How should the following decisions be resolved by council? ( <b>S</b> imple, <b>A</b> bsolute or <b>S</b> pecial Majority)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) ss 3.12 &amp; 3.16 Making local laws</li> <li>b) s 3.59(5) Undertaking major land transactions or major trading activities</li> <li>c) s 4.17 Deciding if a councillor's seat should remain vacant prior to the next ordinary election (if the vacancy occurs between January and July in an election year)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP)</li> <li>(b) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP)</li> <li>(c) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP)</li> <li>(d) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP)</li> <li>(e) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP)</li> <li>(f) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP)</li> </ul>	<p>There is no additional value in having decisions made by Council by Special Majority considering that Absolute Majority provides for Council decisions to be made by 50% +1 of the number of Council member positions. This ensures that the required majority is met.</p> <p>Absolute Majority should be reserved for decisions that have a greater impact to the community.</p>

Administrative efficiencies	Response	Comments
d) s 4.20 Appointing the Electoral Commissioner to conduct an election or appointing a returning officer	(g) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP)	
e) s 4.57 Appointing a person to be a Councillor if no nominations are received twice for a vacant position	(h) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP) (i) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP) (j) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP)	
f) s 4.61 Deciding if an election should be a postal election	(k) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP) (l) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP)	
g) s 5.8 Establishing committees to assist council in the performance of powers and duties	(m) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP) (n) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP)	
h) ss 5.10 & 5.11A Appointing members (and deputies) to a committee	(o) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP) (p) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP)	
i) s 5.15 Reducing the number of offices required to form a quorum at a committee meeting (if required)	(q) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP) (r) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP)	
j) s 5.16 Delegating or revoking any local government powers and duties to a committee	(s) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP) (t) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP)	
k) s 5.36 Decisions on CEO's employment contract	(u) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP) (v) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP)	
l) s 5.42 & 5.45 Deciding to delegate powers or duties to the CEO (and revoke this delegation)	(w) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP) (x) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP)	
m) s 5.54 Accepting the annual report for a financial year	(y) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP) (z) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP)	
n) s 5.98A Deciding to pay the deputy mayor an additional allowance	(aa) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP) (bb) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP)	
o) s 5.99 Deciding to pay council members the prescribed minimum fee or a fee within the prescribed range	(cc) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP) (dd) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP)	
p) s 5.99A Deciding to pay council members an annual allowance or an allowance that has been set for expenses	(ee) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP) (ff) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP)	
q) s 6.2 Preparing and adopting a budget for the financial year	(gg) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP)	
r) s 6.3 Imposing a supplementary general rate or specified area rate	(hh) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP)	
s) s 6.8 Spending money from the municipal fund that was not in the annual budget	(ii) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP)	
t) s 6.11 Changing the purpose of a reserve account	(jj) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP)	
u) s 6.12 Granting a discount for the early payment of money, waiving or granting	(kk) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP)	

Administrative efficiencies	Response	Comments
<p>concessions, or writing off any amount owed to the local government</p> <p>v) s 6.13 Deciding to require a person to pay interest on an amount owed to a local government</p> <p>w) s 6.16 Imposing (or amending) a fee for goods or services</p> <p>x) s 6.20 Deciding to borrow and spend borrowed money</p> <p>y) s 6.32 Imposing a general rate on rateable land or a supplementary general rate in an emergency</p> <p>z) s 6.46 Granting a discount or other incentive for the early payment of any rate or service charge</p> <p>aa) s 6.47 Deciding to waive a rate or service charge</p> <p>bb) s 6.51 Deciding to impose interest on a rate or service charge or costs of proceedings to recover amounts unpaid</p> <p>cc) s 7.1A Appointing audit committee members</p> <p>dd) s 7.1B Delegating powers and duties to the audit committee</p> <p>ee) Sch 2.2 clause 4 Deciding to propose to the Advisory Board that a submission should be rejected or dealt with as a minor matter that does not require public submissions</p> <p>ff) Sch 2.2 clause 5 Making a proposal to the Minister or the Advisory Board to change the name of a district or ward</p> <p>gg) Sch 2.2 clause 9 Making a proposal to the Advisory Board to change ward boundaries, the name of the district or wards, or the number of councillors</p> <p>hh) LG (Admin) Reg 10(2) Deciding to revoke or change a decision made by absolute majority</p> <p>ii) LG (Admin) Reg 14A Deciding to approve a member to be present at a meeting via telephone</p> <p>jj) LG (Admin) Reg 19C and 19DA) Adopting a strategic community plan and corporate</p>		

Administrative efficiencies	Response	Comments
<p>business plan</p> <p>kk) LG (Financial Management) Reg 33A Determining whether to adopt a review of the budget or recommendations in the budget review</p>		
<p>ii) Which regulatory measures within the Act should be removed or amended to make the legislation more efficient? Please provide detailed analysis with your suggestions.</p> <p>Briefly describe the red tape problem you have identified.</p> <p>What is the impact of this problem? Please quantify if possible.</p> <p>What solutions can you suggest to solve this red tape problem?</p>		<p>Local governments should operate under the same or similar regulatory regime as State Government entities. Where local government is burdened by regulation that negatively impact business efficacy and is not a regulation that State Government entities are subject to, consideration should be given to alleviate that burdening regulation.</p>



Beneficial Enterprises	Response	Comments
<p>i) The local government sector has been requesting that it be given additional powers to form independent corporations. These entities could be used to manage part of a local government's existing business activity or pursue new commercial opportunities. To what extent do you support the following statement?</p> <p>ii) A local government should be able to create a company known as a beneficial enterprise.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Neutral</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive</p>	<p>Local government should have the ability to create Council Controlled Organisations (<b>CCO</b>) to provide any services (consider New Zealand Model) to realise additional revenue streams and provide for more efficient service delivery, consider waste services and shared ICT.</p> <p>The preferred model will allow local governments to develop a charter that is not embedded in legislation but provides the parameters under which the CCO can operate. This will provide a high level of transparency but also allows the CCO to act commercially. The CCO will be accountable to the Council, report on performance and be subject to audit requirements.</p> <p>Legislation should also allow local government to jointly form Beneficial Enterprises and to enter into joint ventures with corporations, consider leisure industry, golf courses, building and planning works, event management.</p> <p>The main objective is to reduce the reliance on rates, realise efficiencies not currently available to local government and to provide improved services.</p> <p>State Government should provide more authority to local governments in relation to Crown Reserves vested in and/or managed by local governments especially in relation to the use of such Crown Reserves. Local government need to diversify their revenue and income streams away from the heavy reliance on Rates and local governments should be allowed to undertake commercial activities for this purpose.</p> <p>The requirements under the Major Land Transactions and Major Trading Undertakings provisions are onerous and do not recognise commercial reality.</p>
<p>To what extent do you support the following statements?</p>		
<p>"There should be no limitations on a Local Government to create a beneficial enterprise."</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive</p>	<p>Some checks and balances are needed but should be performance and principles based criteria.</p>

Beneficial Enterprises	Response	Comments
	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<p>"Only local governments deemed to be a low risk should be allowed to create a beneficial enterprise."</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>Low risk in relation to financial and resource capacity – consider the skill set and expertise of the local government to create a beneficial enterprise.</p>
<p>"Only local governments that meet a threshold for financial health should be allowed to create a beneficial enterprise."</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>Low risk in relation to financial and resource capacity – consider the skill set and expertise of the local government to create a beneficial enterprise.</p>
<p>"Local governments should only be permitted to invest in a company up to a specific percentage of their annual expenditure."</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>Local government should have a legislative obligation to have an Investment Policy but needs to be based on more than just annual expenditure.</p>
<p>"Only local governments that are in band 1 &amp; 2 of the Salaries and Allowance Tribunal banding should be allowed to create a beneficial enterprise."</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>Should be based on financial and strategic robustness, not size as applied by the Salaries and Allowance Tribunal.</p>
<p>"Local government beneficial enterprises should be able to compete with private businesses."</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive	<p>Yes, but subject to National Competition Policy.</p>

Beneficial Enterprises	Response	Comments
	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<p>"Beneficial enterprises should have to employ staff under the same pay rates and conditions as employees of local governments."</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>No as otherwise it would be difficult to realise the benefits that the beneficial enterprise could provide.</p>
<p>"Local governments should have to tell their community how much they are investing in a beneficial enterprise."</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>Yes as the community are stakeholders and shareholders.</p>
<p>"Communities should be able to decide if their local governments can establish a beneficial enterprise."</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>Yes, but only through a Council decision.</p>
<p>iii) Which of the following functions should a local government beneficial enterprise be permitted to undertake?</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There should be no restrictions</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local governments should not be permitted to form a company</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statutory approvals for example building and planning</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	

Beneficial Enterprises	Response	Comments
• Leisure centres	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	
• Human resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	
• Information technology	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	
• Airports	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	
• Waste management	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	
• Parking	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	
• Road maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	
• Retail (shops and service stations)	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	
• Age or child care facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	
• Land development	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	
• Caravan parks	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	
• Other, please specify:		
To what extent do you support the following statements?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"The local government should be required to guarantee any debt of a local government beneficial enterprise."</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>Considering that shareholders of a corporation in effect underwrite the debts of the corporation, the same should be applied for beneficial enterprises.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"The local government should be able to lend money to a local government beneficial enterprise."</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"The Western Australian Treasury Corporation</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive	<p>Yes and should be no different as to lending directly to the</p>

Beneficial Enterprises	Response	Comments
should be able to lend money to a local government beneficial enterprise"	<input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	local government.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"Commercial lenders should be able to lend money to a local government beneficial enterprise"</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	Yes and should be no different as to lending directly to the local government.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"The local government <u>must</u> receive approval from the Minister prior to creating a local government beneficial enterprise."</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	It is appropriate for the Minister to consider the business plan through a robust assessment process to be satisfied that the local government has sufficient resources, considered the risks (including financial) to create the beneficial enterprise.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"The local government <u>must</u> receive approval from the Treasurer prior to creating a local government beneficial enterprise."</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	No, the Minister can seek advice from the Treasurer if deemed appropriate.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"The Office of the Auditor General should be responsible for auditing local government beneficial enterprises."</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>Support the OAG's role, considering that local governments are audited by the OAG and beneficial enterprises are entities of local governments. However the costs of the OAG to undertake audits should be market competitive.</p> <p>Beneficial enterprises should not be constrained to the same degree as local governments to allow commercial viability, flexibly and to realise business efficacy.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"A local government beneficial enterprise should be required to hold public meetings."</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do you have any comments or feedback on the ability of a local government to form a beneficial enterprise?</li> </ul>		

Community Engagement	Responses	Comments
What methods of engagement do you believe are most effective (please select all options that apply)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) In person</li> <li>b) Telephone</li> <li>c) Online</li> <li>d) Community forums</li> <li>e) Citizen juries</li> <li>f) Other (please specify)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (a)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (c)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (d)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (e)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (f)</li> </ul>	Local and state wide public notice requirement to be satisfied by providing notice on the City's website. Notice to be maintained on the website until the public consultation period closes or as otherwise determined by the applicable legislation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How could local governments engage with different community groups (e.g. young people, seniors, families, people with disabilities, Aboriginal people and people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities, etc.)?</li> </ul>	Through the above mediums and in particular community forums and online (survey/social media) opportunities. In respect to family with disabilities, aboriginal people and CALD communities, a more targeted approach through cultural groups, elders, local area coordinators, advisory bodies will enable better engagement outcomes.	
To what extent do you support the following statements?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "The Act needs to set rules for community engagement by defining what community engagement is and how it should be done."</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Neutral</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Supportive</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive</li> </ul>	Local governments should determine the level of community engagement that meets the requirements of their community. Can consider a minimum standard or consultation requirement but need to be specifically defined with appropriate parameters.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Local governments should be required to adopt a community engagement charter or policy."</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Neutral</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive</li> </ul>	Prudent local governments will adopt community engagement policies to ensure that they are cognisant of community needs and expectations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "All local governments should operate under a universal community engagement charter or policy."</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Neutral</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Supportive</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive</li> </ul>	A basic definition, minimum standard and parameters should suffice for Local Governments to adapt a community engagement charter and policy reflective of their community, its demographic, diversity, etc.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Local governments should determine if they require a community engagement charter or policy and the content of that charter or policy."</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Neutral</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive</li> </ul>	

Community Engagement	Responses	Comments
Other jurisdictions have included principles with their engagement charter. How relevant do you believe each of these principles are?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engagement is genuine</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Irrelevant <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relevant	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engagement is inclusive and respectful</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Irrelevant <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relevant	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engagement is fit-for-purpose</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Irrelevant <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relevant	<p>It is dependent on the engagement purpose. There are times that Local Government is simply informing the community not looking for comments to support a decision.</p> <p>Needs to be a clear distinction between:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>informing</li> <li>consulting</li> <li>engaging</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engagement is informed and transparent</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Irrelevant <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relevant	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engagement processes must be reviewed and improved</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Irrelevant <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relevant	
In what circumstances should local governments be required to engage with the community? (please select all options that apply)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) When preparing or reviewing their Strategic Community Plan</li> <li>b) When preparing their annual budget</li> <li>c) Making a local law</li> <li>d) Planning matters</li> <li>e) Emergency and community infrastructure planning</li> <li>f) Only when the local government determines that it is necessary</li> <li>g) Other (please specify)</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (a) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (c) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (d) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (e) <input type="checkbox"/> (f) <input type="checkbox"/> (g)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>d) Certain matters based on impact to the Community.</li> </ul> <p>Other – when a matter/project/activity/plan/development/etc. fits within a defined parameter constituting a need to engage.</p>

Community Engagement	Responses	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would you like to make any further comments regarding community engagement?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supportive of some minimum standards or parameters in respect to planning, be it tiered or otherwise for varying sizes of local governments then elaborate and adopt an approach to suit.</li> <li>• Supportive and see some value of publishing “appropriate” and “fair” KPIs to measure levels of success as a means for benchmarking – both from community’s perspective and local government comparisons.</li> <li>• Supportive of State Government using local government documents to better inform their policy and service delivery – collaboration, awareness, .</li> <li>• Supportive (where possible) of integration of plans – may not be across the board, but grouped and integrated where feasible.</li> <li>• Community should be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Involved in development of strategic plan.</li> <li>b. Provided with opportunity for some level of feedback through drafting process at least.</li> <li>c. Notified (published) of local government plans and reports.</li> <li>d. Able to assess a local government’s success in achieving priorities – e.g. through an aligned, periodic Community Satisfaction Survey or the like</li> </ul> </li> <li>• With respect to meeting community engagement requirements when developing their IPR documents, would suggest the need to demonstrate the community has been engaged in the development of and completion of draft plans, including an effort and evidence it is representative of the community’s diverse population.</li> </ul>	



Complaints Management	Responses	Comments
What matters need to be considered in complaints management policies and procedures (please select all that apply)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) How the application must be made</li> <li>b) How a response to a complaint is to be made</li> <li>c) Opportunities for a review of a response</li> <li>d) The timeframes related to the process or review</li> <li>e) Notification requirements of the process</li> <li>f) Reporting of the complaints received</li> <li>g) Internal independent review of complaints</li> <li>h) None of these options</li> <li>i) Other (please specify)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (a)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (c)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (d)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (e)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (f)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (g)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> (h)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> (i)</li> </ul>	Local governments should have the autonomy to develop their complaint management policies, however should consider best practice (Ombudsman guidelines) and apply Australian Standards.
i) To what extent do you support this statement?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “A customer service charter should set the framework for local government complaints management.”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Supportive</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive</li> </ul>	Local governments should have the autonomy to develop their customer service charter and framework.
ii) Should a local government customer service charter be a legislative requirement?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Unsure</li> </ul>	
iii) Who should review unresolved complaints (please select all options that apply)?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Different staff member in the local government</li> <li>b) A qualified complaints management officer</li> <li>c) A committee created by the local government</li> <li>d) A tabled decision for council to determine</li> <li>e) None of the people or groups listed above</li> <li>f) Other (please specify)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> (a)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> (b)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> (c)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> (d)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (e)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> (f)</li> </ul>	Local governments should deal with complaints through their established mechanisms (including appeals and reviews) and refer to external oversight bodies (Ombudsman and the Department) when those mechanisms have been exhausted.
iv) Do you have any additional comments on the topic of complaints management?	There is a clear need for statutory provisions and procedures to be established to assist local governments in dealing with vexatious and frivolous complainants, to ensure the appropriate balance is achieved in providing natural justice and procedural fairness to the complainant and the resource intensive investigations undertaken to deal with the complaint. It is not considered appropriate to establish a new statutory body as the WA Ombudsman provides sufficient guidance in this respect. Once the head of power is in place, this must be supported by robust guidelines from the DLGSC to ensure Local Governments are adequately equipped and supported to make a decision based on the guidelines.	

Council Meetings	Response	Comments
i) To what extent do you support the following statements?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“The process for public question time should be consistent between councils.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>To ensure that the community expectations can be met and consistency of process, local governments should have the same or similar processes in place for public question time.</p> <p>Questioners should be required to provide the suburb where they live but not their actual address.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Public question time is an important feature of council meetings.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>Note that only a very few community members attend Council meetings so whilst important, public question time is not accessed by the majority of the community.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“People unhappy with the quality of the answer given at public question time should be able to escalate the matter to an independent person.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>This undermines the autonomy and authority of the Council.</p>
ii) Should council members be able to participate in meetings remotely?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	<p>The current Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 allows for attendance by telephone, however only if approved by Council and in a suitable place. A suitable place is then defined as in a town site as defined in the Land Administration Act 1997. This restricts an Elected Members ability to attend the meeting to a town site in Western Australia.</p> <p>This requirement does not cater for remote locations or the ability to attend via teleconference whilst in another state or overseas. The regulations require amendment to consider allowing attendance at a meeting via technology from any location suitable to a Council.</p>

Council Meetings	Response	Comments
iii) If yes, how?	Skype/Video Link providing appropriate resources are available.	
iv) Could General Electors Meetings be combined with or held consecutively with an Ordinary Council Meeting?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	This has the potential to create confusion.
v) Should Council Meetings be live streamed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsure	Local governments should have the autonomy to determine if Council meetings should be live streamed however consider the risks of doing so. However certain protections should be in place, including a form of privilege.
To what extent do you support the following statements?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Legislation should set rules for recording confidential items in minutes.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	Local governments should have the autonomy to determine.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local governments should be required to publish unconfirmed council meeting minutes prior to the local government’s next council or committee meeting.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	Local governments should have the autonomy to determine.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“The CEO rather than the Presiding Member should be responsible for the minutes of council and committee meetings.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	This is an administrative function that should rest with the CEO however the Presiding Member should certify that the minutes have been confirmed by Council.
To what extent do you support the following statements?		
“The requirement to hold an annual electors meeting should be removed.”	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	The Annual Report is presented to a Council meeting prior to being presented at an Electors General Meeting providing residents the opportunity to ask question at this forum. It is a repetitive and inefficient process to require that it be presented again at an Electors General Meeting. Additionally, there are many opportunities for the public to participate in Council matters especially

Council Meetings	Response	Comments
		considering numerous electronic options. The City publishes the Annual Report on its website soon after it is adopted by Council and well before the 10 days period stated in the proposal.
"The ability to call a special electors meeting should be removed."	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	That Section 5.28(1)(a) be amended:  (a) so that the prescribed number of electors required to request a meeting increase from 100 (or 5% of electors) to 500 (or 5% of electors), whichever is fewer; and
"The number of times that a special electors meeting can be called on the same matter should be restricted."	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	That Section 5.28(1)(b) be amended:  (b) to preclude the calling of Electors' Special Meeting on the same issue within a 12 month period, unless Council determines otherwise.
"The number of electors required to hold a special electors meeting should be increased."	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
"The Local Government's standing orders should apply to special electors meetings."	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	No as the Presiding Member can and should determine the procedure for a special electors meeting.
"The way special electors meetings are conducted should be uniform between local governments."	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	No as the Presiding Member can and should determine the procedure for a special electors meeting.

Council Meetings	Response	Comments
vi) Do you have any additional comments on the topic of council meetings?	<p><b>Revoking or Changing decisions</b></p> <p>Regulation 10 provides a mechanism for the revocation or change to a previous decision of Council. It does not however, contain any provision clarifying that the provisions do not apply to Council decisions that have already been implemented. This regulatory deficiency is currently managed administratively, but warrants an appropriate amendment to assist clarifying the rights of a Councillor to seek a revocation or change.</p>	

Elections	Response	Comments
i) To what extent do you support the following statements?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Voting should be compulsory.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree	<p>Compulsory voting would increase the costs associated with Local Government Elections including for candidates contesting elections and the resources needed to determine whether those who failed to vote have valid reasons for not voting.</p> <p>To increase voter participation, postal voting should be encouraged as well as online voting.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Voting should be conducted via a preferential voting system.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree	<p>First Past the Post is the preferred method and is commonly understood by the community at large</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Electronic and online voting should be made available for local government elections.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree	<p>Council supports on-line voting and the subsequent change to legislation to facilitate this subject to the availability of a cost effective and secure system that guarantees security of information and maintains the integrity of the electoral process.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“The use of electronic or online voting would not change my confidence in the voting system.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Legislation should be introduced that would permit online voting to be trialled.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree	<p>Online voting should be permitted without a trial but if a trial is required then this is supported.</p>
Which local governments should be required to offer postal voting?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Postal voting should not be required to be offered</li> <li>b) All local governments</li> <li>c) Local governments with a population greater than 1,000 people</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> (a) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b) <input type="checkbox"/> (c) <input type="checkbox"/> (d)	<p>The City supports local governments determining whether to conduct their elections by postal elections however considers that the WAEC should not have a monopoly for conducting postal elections. Local governments are required to achieve value for money in</p>

Elections	Response	Comments
d) Unsure		<p>their procurement activities and this should also extend to undertaking postal elections, whether that be to allow local governments to undertake postal elections themselves or by contracting either the AEC, the WAEC or another capable entity.</p> <p>An external contractor can also provide an 'at-arms-length' and independent management of the electoral process. Notwithstanding that the AEC or WAEC have sophisticated processes and systems in place to manage postal elections, this does not preclude a corporate organisation from providing these services.</p>
Which local governments should be required to use the WA Electoral Commission?		
a) No local governments should be required to use the WA Electoral Commission b) All local governments c) Local governments with a population greater than 1,000 people d) Unsure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (a) <input type="checkbox"/> (b) <input type="checkbox"/> (c) <input type="checkbox"/> (d)	Local governments should have the autonomy to determine who to engage to conduct their elections.
ii) Should the WA Electoral Commission be the only organisation authorised to conduct local government postal voting?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
What method should be used to resolve ties in council elections?		
a) Drawing of lots (random selection) b) Unsure c) Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> (a) <input type="checkbox"/> (b) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (c)	The elected Councillors should determine the candidate to be elected to Council.
To what extent do you support the following statements?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"A count-back from the previous election result should be used if available to fill vacancies between elections."</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very Supportive	

Elections	Response	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local governments should be required to adopt a caretaker period that restricts council from making major decisions during a local government election period.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very Supportive	<p>In principle, caretaker periods are appropriate however care needs to be exercised considering that State Government has elections every 4 years and local government elections are every 2 years. So with 50% of Council continuing there is the potential for major disruption when there is so much business required to run the Council.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Caretaker periods are only required in large local governments.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very Supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Council members who contest a State or Federal election should be required to take a leave of absence on the day of their nomination for a State or Federal election campaign.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very Supportive	
<p>To what extent do you agree with the following statements?</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“People who have been convicted under planning or building legislation offences in the past should be disqualified from serving as a council member.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Council elections should be held every four years rather than every two years with all council members being elected at the same time.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“A cap should be set on the maximum amount that a candidate may spend on their campaign.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree	<p>Financial capacity should not dictate the outcome of an election or influence the democratic process.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Prospective candidates should be required to</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	



Elections	Response	Comments
declare their profession or primary source of income on the nomination form.”	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local governments should be required to publish candidate profiles on the website.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Information collected on the nomination form should include demographic information such as gender and ethnicity.”</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree	
To what extent do you agree with the following statements?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“People who own land but who do not live in a district should be eligible to vote.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very Supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“People who lease rateable property in a district should be entitled to vote.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very Supportive	Yes as that person resides in the local government district and should have a say in who represents their interests.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Corporations that own property in a district should be entitled to vote.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very Supportive	Yes as a corporation is a legal entity and should have a say in who represents their interests.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Corporations that lease property should be entitled to vote.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral	Yes as a corporation is a legal entity and should have a say in who represents their interests.

Elections	Response	Comments
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very Supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Occupiers of land, for example, commercial lease holders, should be eligible to vote.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very Supportive	<p>Yes as that occupier has an interest in the land within the local government district and should have a say in who represents their interests.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"Only people over the age of 18 who live in a district should be eligible to vote."</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very Supportive	
<p>How should the position of Mayor or Shire President be determined?</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Vote by electors</li> <li>b) Vote by council members</li> <li><b>c) A method determined by council</b></li> <li>d) Unsure</li> <li>e) Other (please specify)</li> </ul>	<p>c)</p>	<p>Local governments can determine how the Mayor/President is elected once the district is established. Should electors propose to change the method of election for the Mayor then it is suggested that the number of electors or the percentage total of electors required to do so should be reviewed in line with population growth. The Act already has provisions for Council to determine how the Mayor/President is elected.</p>
<p>To what extent do you agree with the following statement</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“The rules regulating non-election gifts and election gifts should be aligned.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very Supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Election gifts and donations should be declared regardless of when they are received.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Very Supportive	<p>Yes but would be extremely difficult to appropriately legislate and enforce.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“A register of election gifts and donations should be</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Unsupportive	

Elections	Response	Comments
available online.”	<input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very Supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Donors should also be required to declare election gifts and donations made.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very Supportive	The Act already requires that donors declare political donations.
Should gifts or donations from any of the following be prohibited? (please select all options that apply)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Real estate agents</li> <li>b) Property developers</li> <li>c) Political parties</li> <li>d) Liquor or gambling business entities</li> <li>e) Tobacco industry business entities</li> <li>f) No election gifts or donations should be prohibited</li> <li>g) All election gifts or donations should be prohibited</li> <li>h) Other (please specify)</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (a) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b) <input type="checkbox"/> (c) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (d) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (e) <input type="checkbox"/> (f)	h) Anyone who is applying for Council to exercise discretion.
To what extent do you support the following statements?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“A local government should be required to have a ward structure if it reaches a certain population threshold.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very Supportive	Local governments should have the autonomy to determine irrespective of population
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“A local government with fewer than 800 people should not have wards.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very Supportive	Local governments should have the autonomy to determine irrespective of population
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Ward boundaries should be set by the Electoral Commissioner.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral	

Elections	Response	Comments
	<input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very Supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “The number of members that a council has should be linked to the local government’s population.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very Supportive	
iii) How can participation be increased to ensure that Western Australia’s diverse population is represented in local government?	Campaign drives around local government election times to raise awareness of the elections but also about local governments and the services provided by local government.	
iv) Do you have any other comments or feedback on local government elections?		

Financial Management	Response	Comments
i) To what extent do you support the following statements?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local government purchasing rules should be consistent with the State Government.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>Procurement activities of local governments are not dissimilar in volume or value to that of State Government departments and therefore it is considered appropriate that the same thresholds apply especially as local governments can also access State Government Common Use Agreements.</p> <p>General procurement principles published by State Government should be adhered to across both State and local government requiring open and effective competition, procurement planning, contract management and value for money assessment. Access to State Government common use arrangements also provide similar benefits to WALGA preferred supplier panels. Common purchasing thresholds would assist to improve consistency and ensure greater alignment with State Government purchasing levels.</p> <p>WALGA Panel should not preclude other service providers that could provide a better price or service.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Different procurement rules should apply to different local governments.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>There should be consistency across local governments.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local governments with few staff or small operating budgets should have fewer procurement rules to comply with.”</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>Regardless of local government’s operating budget size, the procurement risks remain the same.</p>
ii) What criteria should be used to set the threshold for when a local government must publicly advertise a tender? (select all options that should apply) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. None. Procurement rules should be consistent across local government</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (a) <input type="checkbox"/> (b)	

Financial Management	Response	Comments
b. A percentage of a local government's average operating expenditure c. Salaries and Allowances Tribunal bands d. An independent risk assessment e. Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> (c) <input type="checkbox"/> (d) <input type="checkbox"/> (e)	
iii) Should the regulations set a threshold that a CEO is permitted to spend without needing approval from council?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	Council delegation of authority already can provide for setting such thresholds and it should be a Council decision to delegate such authority to the CEO considering the risks and controls that a local government has.
iv) Should the amount that a CEO is permitted to spend without needing additional approval from Council be scaled according to the local government's size or capacity?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	Council delegation of authority can provide parameters and conditions on how to exercise the authority to incur expenditure.
To what extent do you support the following statements?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local governments should be permitted to invest surplus revenue.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	This allows a local government to earn an investment income that will support increasing non-rates revenue.  Legislation should require that local government adopt an Investment Policy.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local government should have fewer restrictions on their ability to invest surplus revenue.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Different local governments should have different investment powers and rules.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	Investment powers and rules should be uniform across all local governments. The scale can be different depending on the size of the local government.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Certain types of investments should require independent approval.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral	It may be prudent to obtain independent advice for more complex investment decisions.

Financial Management	Response	Comments
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
Should local governments be required to give public notice in any of the following situations? (please select all options that should apply)		
a) Where a local government wishes to borrow money outside amounts listed in the annual budget b) Where a local government has exercised its power to borrow for a purpose but no longer wishes to use the funds for that purpose c) Where a local government has exercised its power to borrow for a purpose and has funding left over d) Public notice is not required in any of these situations e) Unsure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (a) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b) (no) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (c) (No) <input type="checkbox"/> (d) <input type="checkbox"/> (e)	
v) Should local governments be permitted to secure loans using assets that they own freehold?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
vi) Should local government be permitted to participate in Building Upgrade Finance programs?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
vii) What types of upgrades should be eligible for the program?		
a) Environmental upgrades b) Commercial upgrades c) Both environmental and commercial d) Neither e) Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> (a) <input type="checkbox"/> (b) <input type="checkbox"/> (c) <input type="checkbox"/> (d) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (e)	
Do you have any additional comments on the topic of financial management?		

Integrated Planning and Reporting	Response	Comments
i) To what extent do you support the following statements?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Long-term and operational planning is an area where reform is required.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“A local government should be free to conduct its long-term and operational planning in whatever manner it wishes.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local governments should conduct their long-term and operational planning in the same way.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local governments with smaller populations and fewer staff should have fewer rules for how they conduct long-term and operational planning.”</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	Local governments with fewer resources and with constrained financial capacity do not have the resources to implement sophisticated systems and controls and therefore most probably require more stringent rules to meet governance standards.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Governments with larger populations and more staff should have fewer rules setting how they conduct long-term and operational planning.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Integrated Planning and Reporting documents need to be reviewed too frequently.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	Reviewing plans is considered business as usual however the local government should determine when reviews are required.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“The timelines for reviewing Integrated Planning and Reporting documents need to be synchronised with</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive	Yes but ultimately to be determined by the local government.



Integrated Planning and Reporting	Response	Comments
council election cycles.”	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“There should be consequences for not complying with Integrated Planning and Reporting requirements.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
Should Integrated Planning and Reporting requirements differ based on any of the following criteria?		
Population size	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
Geographical size	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
Location	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
Salaries and Allowances Tribunal banding	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
Other, please specify		
To what extent do you support the following statements?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local governments should be required to publish measures of success in implementing their long-term and operational plans.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	Yes and should be included in the Annual Report
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local governments should be required to publish measures of success against uniform key performance indicators.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral	Uniform KPI’s do not always provide the outcome sought; consider inappropriate financial ratios as an example.

Integrated Planning and Reporting	Response	Comments
	<input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“It is important that measures of success are comparable.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local governments should determine if they publish measures of success and what these measures should be.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	Yes and should be included in the Annual Report
To what extent do you support the following statements?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“The State Government should use local government Integrated Planning and Reporting documents to inform policy and service delivery.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“All local government plans, including Local Public Health Plans, Disability Access Plans and Town Planning Schemes, should be combined under Integrated Planning and Reporting.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local government Integrated Planning and Reporting needs to be conducted at a regional level to influence State Government policy and service delivery.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
What should the role of the community be in Integrated Planning and Reporting?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be actively involved in the development of the Strategic Community Plan</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	

Integrated Planning and Reporting	Response	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide feedback to the local government on Draft Strategic Community Plans and Corporate Business Plans</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be notified of a local government's plans and reports (for example, publication of these documents on the local government's website)</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To assess the local government's success in achieving the priorities identified in the Strategic Community Plan</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	Yes and should be included in the Annual Report
Should all Local Governments have to meet the following community engagement requirements when developing their IPR documents?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A minimum number of people or percentage of people involved in the engagement process</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that community engagement is representative of the community's diverse population</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrate the community has been engaged in the development of plans</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrate the community has been consulted on the completion of draft plans</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other (please specify)</li> </ul>		
ii) Should community engagement requirements be the same for all local governments?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
iii) Do you have any other comments on the topic of Integrated Planning and Reporting?	Ensure that service levels are transparent for customers as this will also help explain the cost of delivering such services.	

Interventions	Response	Comments
i) Depending on the nature of the allegation, different parties are responsible for receiving allegations of breaches of the Act. Should the Department responsible for local government be responsible for receiving all allegations of breaches of the Act?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	Yes but also consider the Victorian model and the role of a Local Government Commissioner and the oversight body for local government.
To what extent are you concerned about behaviour and good governance in local government?		
a) A great deal b) A lot c) A moderate amount d) A little e) Not at all	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (a) <input type="checkbox"/> (b) <input type="checkbox"/> (c) <input type="checkbox"/> (d) <input type="checkbox"/> (e)	Considering the issues faced by certain local governments it is concerning but local governments should be supported to improve their governance process. The support should be available from the Department which should be resourced accordingly.
To what extent do you support the following statements?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“The Act should enable an external person to be appointed to work with a local government’s administration to improve governance and resolve problems.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>Early intervention when requested by the local government (without the need for a breach to have occurred) is preferable.</p> <p>The Department should not only seek compliance or act as an enforcement agency but instead be supportive and assist with capacity building.</p> <p>The appointed person’s authority to be restricted to providing advice and support, especially by making recommendations to the Council. The State Government should pay for the appointed person unless the assistance of the appointed person is specifically required by the local government, which the local government should then pay for.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“An external person appointed to work with a local government’s administration to improve governance and resolve problems should have the powers to direct the administration and override decisions made by the administration.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“The external person should be appointed by</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive	

Interventions	Response	Comments
the Minister.”	<input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“The costs of appointing an external person to work with an administration to improve governance and resolve problems in a local government should be met by the local government.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	Where the appointed external has been appointed at the request of the local government.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“The costs of appointing an external person to work with an administration to improve governance and resolve problems in a local government should be met by the State Government.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	Where the appointed external has been appointed without being requested by the local government.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“The Act should enable an external person to be appointed to work with council members to improve governance and resolve problems.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"An external person appointed to work with council members should have the power to direct the council."</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“An external person appointed to work with council members to improve governance and resolve problems should have the powers to override council decisions.”</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“An external person should be appointed by the Minister.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive	

Interventions	Response	Comments
	<input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“The costs of appointing an external person to work with council members to improve governance and resolve problems in a local government should be met by the local government.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>Where the appointed external has been appointed at the request of the Council.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“The costs of appointing an external person to work with council members to improve governance and resolve problems in a local government should be met by the State Government.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>Where the appointed external has been appointed without being requested by the Council.</p>
<p>To what extent do you support the following statements?</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Former local government council members, committee members and employees should be prosecuted if they misuse information.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>This would be difficult to regulate considering that former local government council members, committee members and employees are not under the jurisdiction of the Act and would be nearly impossible to enforce.</p> <p>Also consider that no such prohibitions exist for former State or Federal parliamentarians.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local government council members, committee members or employees should be prosecuted if they use their position to cause detriment to the local government or any person.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“People who knowingly provide false or misleading information to a council should be prosecuted.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local government employees that breach procurement rules should be prosecuted.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	

Interventions	Response	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“When a breach of the Act is identified an infringement notice should be issued as is the case for traffic offences.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
ii) To what extent do you support the following statements?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“In cases where a local law does not define a penalty amount, the Act should set a default penalty amount.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	Local governments should have the ability to determine the appropriate penalties to apply for breach of their local laws.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local governments need greater powers to direct property owners to tidy property for amenity, health and safety reasons.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	Current legislative requirements are sufficient.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local governments need greater powers to direct property owners and occupiers to remove items like disused motor vehicles for amenity, health and safety reasons.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	Current legislative requirements are sufficient.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local governments should be able to destroy property or items removed from a property within 28 days when there has been a breach of a local law or regulations. This might include rubbish, goods deemed to be of little value, or decaying items.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	Consider that perishable goods or consumables may decay without being stored in appropriate facilities that may be cost prohibitive for the local government. The time period should be tiered depending on the type of item and also allow a defined period where impounded must be collected and if not collected within that time, to be disposed of by the local government.
iii) Do you have any additional comments on this topic of interventions?		

Local Laws	Response	Comments
i) Should any of the following topics covered by local laws be replaced by state-wide regulations?		Inconsistency of local laws is an ongoing concern, with differences between local governments regarding content, as well as mechanism and practices to enforce them. Inconsistencies and different approaches by local governments may constitute a burden for businesses and the community. The standardisation of local laws is supported as long as the ability of local governments to make individual alterations and determinations is retained to address specific community issues. This will assist in avoiding the lengthy and procedural local law process.
• Activities on thoroughfares and trading	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
• Beekeeping	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
• Cemeteries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
• Dogs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
• Cats	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
• Extractive industries	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
• Fencing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
• Bush fire brigades	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	



Local Laws	Response	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting procedures (standing orders)</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pest plants</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public places and Local Government property</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parking</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waste</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urban environment and nuisance</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other (please specify)</li> </ul>		
ii) Should model local laws be prepared by State Government for local governments to use?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	Consider that WALGA develops model local laws.
iii) Should local governments be permitted to adapt the contents of model local laws?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	Remove the requirement to consult on model local laws when they are adopted in their entirety. Only provide public notice on its adoption, implementation and where local laws differ from the model.

Local Laws	Response	Comments
iv) Currently a local government is required to consult for a period of six weeks. If a local government adopts a model local law without modification, how long should the mandatory consultation period be?		Remove the requirement to consult on model local laws when they are adopted in their entirety. Only provide public notice on its adoption, implementation and where local laws differ from the model.
a) Less than 6 weeks b) Greater than 6 weeks c) 6 weeks as it is currently d) The requirement for public consultation should be removed entirely e) A duration determined by council	<input type="checkbox"/> (a) <input type="checkbox"/> (b) <input type="checkbox"/> (c) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (d) <input type="checkbox"/> (e)	Consideration to be given to removing the need for state-wide public notice.
If a local government is seeking to adopt a model local law that it has modified, how long should the mandatory consultation period be?		
a) Less than 6 weeks b) Greater than 6 weeks c) 6 weeks as it is currently d) The requirement for public consultation should be removed entirely e) A duration determined by council	<input type="checkbox"/> (a) <input type="checkbox"/> (b) <input type="checkbox"/> (c) <input type="checkbox"/> (d) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (e)	
v) To what extent do you support the following statements?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“The Department should continue to provide comment on proposed local laws prior to consideration by Parliament’s Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	The Department may not be fully knowledgeable in respect of local issues and would be more appropriate to take on an advisory role as to process.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local governments should be required to modify proposed local laws according to the instructions of the Department.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	If local governments are required to have a legal practitioner certify that a local law is within power and legally enforceable then this should not be a requirement.

Local Laws	Response	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local governments should be required to have a legal practitioner certify that a local law is within power and legally enforceable.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	If necessary, legislation can require that local laws are vetted by an external lawyer and a certificate provided to accompany the Explanatory Memorandum, after submissions but before gazettal.
Should local governments be required to periodically review their local laws?		
a) No b) Yes, every 6 years or less c) Yes, every 8 years d) Yes, between 8 and 10 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (a) <input type="checkbox"/> (b) <input type="checkbox"/> (c) <input type="checkbox"/> (d)	No, unless there is a requirement through changes in the environment or State legislation requiring amendment.
vi) Do you have any additional comments on the topic of local laws?	More guidance needed on what matters local governments have authority to make local laws.	

Rates, fees and Charges	Response	Comments
i) To what degree are you concerned about rates?	<input type="checkbox"/> Not at all <input type="checkbox"/> A little <input type="checkbox"/> A moderate amount <input type="checkbox"/> A lot <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A great deal	<p>The Act contains provisions to exempt properties from rates where they meet certain charitable criteria. These provisions were not altered when the Act was updated in 1995 and they had been in place for many years prior to that. These provisions have always been difficult to interpret and apply consistently. In recent years, they have become unworkable. The Act is outdated and the provisions have always been difficult to interpret and apply consistently.</p> <p>Previously, charitable exemptions were claimed for and provided to not-for-profit agencies providing very basic housing at a subsidised rent to needy families and individuals. This recognised that the not-for-profit owners were providing housing at a financial cost to themselves. More recently, these existing properties have been redeveloped and additional properties purchased to provide a completely new form of facility, the retirement village with independent living units. New property developments and a more focussed businesslike approach by not-for-profit agencies have targeted the potential provided by the very loosely worded charitable exemption provisions.</p> <p>All Independent Living Units should be rated but concessions may be considered. The exemption should only apply to the Nursing Home and Aged Care Hostel portion of the property which is governed by the Commonwealth Aged Care Act 1997.</p> <p>Local governments should have the ability to request the Minister's approval to grant a rate exemption for the Nursing Home portion of a property and rate the independent living units regardless if the owner/s of the property are a charitable organisation or not.</p>

Rates, fees and Charges	Response	Comments
		<p>There needs to be a clearer definition of 'Charitable' so that there are no grey areas in the Act that can be open to interpretation. It should clearly state who can receive a rate exemption and not use the word 'Charitable'.</p> <p>Section 6.26(d) - Land used or held exclusively by a religious body as a place of public worship in relation to that worship, a place of residence of a minister or religion, or convent, nunnery or monastery, or occupied exclusively by a religious brotherhood or sisterhood.</p> <p>Over recent years there has been an increase in the number of 'Religious Bodies' purchasing land and building places of public worship. There is ambiguity as to what is a 'Religious Body', and how local governments can determine what is a 'Religious Body' as there is no definition in the Act or the State Interpretations Act.</p> <p>The rate burden should be distributed evenly across all property owners. There should be equity and fairness in rating or exemption of these types of facilities in the same way that there is a whole of state approach to the provision of rebates and deferrals for pensioners.</p> <p>The issue of time-based differential rating should be examined, to address some Local Governments view that vacant land should be developed in a timely manner.</p> <p><b>Fees and Charges</b></p> <p>Fees and Charges for services are a significant</p>

Rates, fees and Charges	Response	Comments
		<p>source of income for a local government and at the very least should be set to recover the costs of the service or where the service provides a significant community need be subsidised by the local government taking into consideration the need of the local community.</p> <p>The process for establishing fees and charges and making minor amendments after the budget is adopted, other than statutory charges is inefficient and costly. Especially when a local government is required to capture minor fees and charges such as photocopy charges. Without capturing fees in the Fees and Charges schedule, a local government has no ability to levy a charge for a particular service. Additionally some fees remain unchanged from one budget to another and do not necessarily provide for a cost recovery or profit.</p> <p>Acknowledging the Fees and Charges setting process, a local government has no input in relation to Fees and Charges set by the State Government. This should be amended to allow for consultation with the sector to ensure that statutory fees are set with full cost recovery in mind. Examples of such fees and charges and those set under the Planning and Development Act and the Council fee in relation to the Emergency Services Levy.</p> <p>It is also noted that further clarity around a local government's ability to waive fees and charges is also required especially in relation to the current position that a debt must be incurred first before the fee/charge can be waived.</p>

Rates, fees and Charges	Response	Comments
ii) Do you support the following statements?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local governments should be required to prepare a Rates and Revenue Strategy each financial year.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	<p>Local governments should have a Rates and Revenue Strategy, however to prepare this document each financial year is excessive.</p> <p>A Rates and Revenue Strategy should be mandatory with a review to be carried out every 3 years.</p> <p>Local governments already have a Long Term Financial Plan which includes Revenue Policy.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“The value of the property should continue to be used to partially determine the value of the rates payable.”</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	<p>This disperses the impost of rates evenly. Consider how a property in a lower socio economic suburb be charged the same level of rates as a property in a more affluent suburb.</p> <p>This is the best method to clearly give comparative application to normalisation of property rateability.</p> <p>It is considered appropriate that there are more than one method to value land considering the type of land and its use. The model applied by the local governments in the Eastern States seems to have merit but requires further investigation.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local governments should be required to advertise all of their proposed rates and consider any submissions made, prior to adopting their budget.”</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	<p>This provides the opportunity for ratepayers to lodge submissions and is a more transparent process.</p> <p>The current form of required advertising provides little value and the adoption of the Long Term Financial Plan provides the best mechanism to explain this for the community.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Under the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i>, local governments may not advertise their rates prior to 1 May. Local governments should be permitted to advertise their rates at any time</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	<p>The current time frame is very tight for local governments to adopt their budget in June. By changing this date to 1 April this would allow sufficient time for the process to be carried out.</p>

Rates, fees and Charges	Response	Comments
leading up to the adoption of their budget.”		The current form of required advertising provides little value and the adoption of the Long Term Financial Plan provides the best mechanism to explain this for the community.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“All types of rateable property should pay the same rate in the dollar, regardless of how the land is used.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	<p>For a local government that has a diverse rate base that includes GRV Residential, Commercial/Industrial and Vacant Land as well as UV Residential, Commercial/Industrial, Vacant Land and Rural/Mining uniformly rating would not be fair and equitable to all ratepayers.</p> <p>There are strategic reasons for differences. Consider that industrial may be undesirable in some areas.</p>
iii) Should the legislation set the rating categories that can be used by local governments?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	This provides consistency across all local governments but is too prescriptive.
If rating categories are set in legislation, what would be appropriate categories?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residential</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	This is a common category across all local governments.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rural residential</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	This is a common category across a majority of local governments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commercial</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	This is a common category across all local governments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Industrial</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	This is a common category across all local governments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vacant</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	This is a common category across all local governments



Rates, fees and Charges	Response	Comments
	<input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mining</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	This is a common category across a majority of local governments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mining - exploration and prospecting (separate from general mining)</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	This is a common category across a majority of local governments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farming</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	This is a common category across a majority of local governments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not-for-profit organisation or charity</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	Local governments currently do not rate 'Charitable' organisations. However, these should be rated on the use of the land, consider residential or commercial/vacant.
iv) If rating categories were set in legislation, should local governments be permitted to introduce sub-categories within the set categories based on factors such as the type of mining being undertaken, the intensity of the land use or the type of commercial activity?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
v) What powers should local governments have to recover payment of rates on exploration and prospecting leases?	The same powers to recover rates from any non-paying rate payer.	
vi) To what extent do you support the following statements?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Local governments should be permitted to rate properties differently based on their location."</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	Land use is different based on the location.

Rates, fees and Charges	Response	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local governments should be permitted to rate long term vacant properties differently to land that is being used.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>This would encourage the development of land stimulating growth and development in the community.</p> <p>The Act should allow for differential rating to enable a differential rate to be applied on the basis of the length of time a property has remained in an undeveloped state.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local governments should be permitted to rate holiday houses, timeshare properties or AirBNB properties differently.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>This would be very difficult to enforce considering that there is currently not legislative requirement to register or even notify properties used for these purposes.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“A lower rate in the dollar should apply to land used for exploration and prospecting compared to land used for mining.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>The impact of exploration and prospecting is less than the impact of actual mining operations.</p>
<p>Currently, local governments are required to seek Ministerial approval when seeking to impose a rate in the dollar that is more than twice the lowest of its other rating categories. What is your preferred approach to differential rates?</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Ministerial approval for rates twice the lowest category</li> <li>b) Ministerial approval for rates three times the lowest category</li> <li>c) Ministerial approval for rates four times the lowest category</li> <li>d) No Ministerial approval required for any differential rates</li> <li>e) Differential rates to a maximum of four times may be set with no option for</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> (a) <input type="checkbox"/> (b) <input type="checkbox"/> (c) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (d) <input type="checkbox"/> (e) <input type="checkbox"/> (f)	<p>If the local government applies the rules of equity, transparency and fairness then Ministerial approval should not be required.</p>

Rates, fees and Charges	Response	Comments
Ministerial approval f) Other (please specify)		
To what extent do you support the following statements?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“All land should be subject to rates.”</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>The properties that are currently rate exempt still utilise the works and services provided by the local government, therefore they should be contributing to the cost of the provision. This would spread the rate burden across all properties.</p> <p>It should be noted that the properties that receive a rate exemption are usually high end users of the works and services provided by a local government at the expense of other ratepayers. The rate burden should be distributed evenly across all property owners. There should be equity and fairness in rating or exemption of these types of facilities in the same way that there is a whole of state approach to the provision of rebates and deferrals for pensioners.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“The types of land subject to rates should be consistent between local governments.”</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>It is considered appropriate that there is more than one method to value land considering the type of land and its use. The model applied by the Eastern States local governments seems to have merit but requires further investigation</p> <p>The Act should allow for differential rating to enable a differential rate to be applied on the basis of the length of time a property has remained in an undeveloped state.</p>

Rates, fees and Charges	Response	Comments
vii) Should the following types of land be subject to rates?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land owned by the Crown that is used or held for a public purpose</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	Land that is held by the Crown for a non-public purpose should be rated, as the current situation is that all land owned by the Crown is rate exempt.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land used or held exclusively for churches (religious bodies)</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	There has been an increase in the number of properties being purchased in Commercial/Industrial areas and being used for a place of public worship. Quite often there are other incidental activities being carried out on the property that are not related to public worship and question whether the dominant purpose and use of the land is for worship.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land used or held exclusively for schools</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	Schools are providing a service that benefits the entire community.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land used exclusively for charitable purposes</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	<p>Rates should not be applied where land is used exclusively for charitable purposes. If any other uses are undertaken then rates should apply, especially commercial uses.</p> <p>The Act contains provisions to exempt properties from rates where they meet certain charitable criteria. These provisions were not altered when the Act was updated in 1995 and they had been in place for many years prior to that. These provisions have always been difficult to interpret and apply consistently. In recent years, they have become unworkable on a practical basis.</p> <p>Previously, charitable exemptions were claimed for and provided to not-for-profit agencies providing very basic housing at a subsidised rent to needy families</p>

Rates, fees and Charges	Response	Comments
		and individuals. This recognised that the not-for-profit owners were providing housing at a financial cost to themselves. More recently, these existing properties have been redeveloped and additional properties purchased to provide a completely new form of facility, the retirement village with independent living units. New property developments and a more focussed businesslike approach by not-for-profit agencies have targeted the potential provided by the very loosely worded charitable exemption provisions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land vested in trustees for agriculture or horticultural show purposes</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	Yes, if they rent out the premises to a third party.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land owned by Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited (CBH)</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	This is a Commercial operation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land used primarily as a place of residence (no matter who owns the land)</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	A place of residence should be rated as the residents utilise the services provided by the local government and therefore should contribute to the cost.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land used for mining exploration or prospecting</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	Commercial operation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aged care facilities</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	<p>The actual nursing home, where essential care is provided to the elderly residents however the independent living units that co-located on the same properties should be rated and depends on the use.</p> <p>All Independent Living Units should be rated. The exemption should only apply to the Nursing Home and Aged Care Hostel portion of the property which is</p>

Rates, fees and Charges	Response	Comments
		<p>governed by the Commonwealth Aged Care Act 1997. Examples of this are the RAFA Villages where they have a Nursing Home on the property as well as 200-300 Independent Living Units.</p> <p>Local governments should have the ability to request the Minister's approval to grant a rate exemption for the Nursing Home portion of a property and rate the independent living units regardless if the owner/s of the property are a charitable organisation or not.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child care facilities</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	Commercial operation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sporting clubs and Surf Lifesaving clubs</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	Providing a community service but depends on use and if commercial should be rated.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land used for the pursuit of the Arts</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
viii) Which of the following charges should be levied on properties exempt from rates?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Waste charges</li> <li>b) A service charge to cover basic services and maintenance</li> <li>c) Both</li> <li>d) Neither</li> <li>e) Other (please specify)</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> (a) <input type="checkbox"/> (b) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (c) <input type="checkbox"/> (d) <input type="checkbox"/> (e)	<p>The residents of these properties still use the works and services provided by local governments and therefore should contribute to the cost.</p> <p>Direct costs and therefore a choice to use the service.</p>
Should a concession on rates be granted in any of the following scenarios?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The land is owned by a person who currently receives a pensioner or health related</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	The current pensioner/seniors concession provided by the State Government should continue. The cost

Rates, fees and Charges	Response	Comments
concession	<input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	of this concession should not be passed onto local governments.  Government should provide a rebate that is not link to rates.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The land is owned or used by a not-for-profit organisation</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	All land should be rated to spread the rate burden across all land owners but organisations that are purely not-for-profit and provide a community service should be provided a concession.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The land is owned or used by an entity that provides assistance or encouragement for arts or cultural development</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	All land should be rated to spread the rate burden across all land owners but organisations that seek assistance or encouragement for arts or cultural development should be provided a concession.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The land is owned or used by a sporting or recreation body and is available for use by the general community without charge or below cost</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community service organisations that are not-for-profit, for the benefit of the general public and provide community services without charge or below cost</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	Usually grant funded and have included outgoings in the grants.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The payment of rates or charges will cause hardship to the land owner</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	Not fair and equitable to all ratepayers.  A clear and unambiguous definition of hardship will need to be determined.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The concession will encourage the economic development of all or part of the local government district</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	This will need further investigation. This concept has merit as it will encourage economic growth providing employment in the local community.  Council could decide the concession.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The concession will encourage land that is of cultural, environmental, historic, heritage or scientific significance to the local government</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	This needs to be reworded from encouraged to 'has to be preserved' as the local government could be providing a concession over a number of years and the land still undeveloped. This concession has

Rates, fees and Charges	Response	Comments
area to be preserved, restored or maintained		merit, however there needs to be further work in this area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land that is subject to a mining tenement</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	Commercial operation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land that is determined by the Minister to be subject to a concession</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	If the Act defines the concessions then this clause is not required.
ix) Should any other scenarios be subject to rates concessions?	There are no other scenarios subject to rates that require a concession.	
Which of the following charges should be levied on that part of the land that receives a rates concession?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Waste charges</li> <li>b) A service charge to cover basic services and maintenance</li> <li>c) Both</li> <li>d) Neither</li> <li>e) Other (please specify)</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> (a) <input type="checkbox"/> (b) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (c) <input type="checkbox"/> (d) <input type="checkbox"/> (e)	The residents of these properties still use the works and services provided by local governments and therefore should contribute to the cost.
To what extent do you support the following statements?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Rate exemptions for the commercial (non-charitable) business activities of charitable organisations should be removed.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	All commercial operations should be treated the same regardless of who owns them.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Certain categories of ratepayers, for example Independent Living Units, should only be exempt from rates where they qualify under the Commonwealth <i>Aged Care Act</i>”</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive	To qualify under the Commonwealth Aged Care Act 1997 the independent living units would be part of an Aged Care Facility. This would mean that all other independent living units in Retirement Villages should be rated.



Rates, fees and Charges	Response	Comments
1997.”	<input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Land used as a residence should not be regarded as charitable.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
x) To what extent do you support this statements?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local governments should be able to impose fixed charges or levies for particular services, facilities or activities.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	Fixed charges can result in under recovery of costs; however a minimum use fee can assist a local government in eliminating cost blow outs.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local governments should be able to vary fees and charges at any time without advertising the change.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>Supportive of need to advertise/publish change – aligned to budget adoption or changes outside of budget due to circumstances, with community then informed of reasoning.</p> <p>The process for establishing fees and charges and making minor amendments after the budget is adopted, other than statutory charges is inefficient and costly. Especially when a local government is required to capture minor fees and charges such as photocopy charges. Without capturing fees in the Fees and Charges schedule, a local government has no ability to levy a charge for a particular service. Additionally some fees remain unchanged from one budget to another and do not necessarily provide for a cost recovery or profit.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local governments should have the autonomy to set fees and charges for all</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive	Supportive of Local Governments having autonomy to set fees and charges.

Rates, fees and Charges	Response	Comments
services they provide.”	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	Fees and Charges for services are a significant source of income for a local government and at the very least should be set to recover the costs of the service or where the service provides a significant community need be subsidised by the local government taking into consideration the need of the local community.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Services that are consistent across local governments should have the same fees or charges.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	Local governments should have the autonomy to set fees and charges they determine are necessary and should be able to justify any difference if required.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local governments should not set a fee or charge higher than the cost of delivering that service.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>Acknowledging the Fees and Charges setting process, a local government has no input in relation to Fees and Charges set by the State Government. This should be amended to allow for consultation with the sector to ensure that statutory fees are set with full cost recovery in mind. Examples of such fees and charges and those set under the Planning and Development Act and the Council fee in relation to the Emergency Services Levy.</p> <p>It is also noted that further clarity around a local government’s ability to waive fees and charges is also required especially in relation to the current position that a debt must be incurred first before the fee/charge can be waived.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“A fee or charge should not be set lower than the cost of delivering that service.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>Any fees or charges set below the cost of delivering the service may result in unnecessary and inequitable increase in rates.</p> <p>Why be this restrictive? Local governments should be able to decide whether they wish to subsidise certain services.</p>

Rates, fees and Charges	Response	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Fees and charges imposed by local government and fixed under legislation should increase by CPI annually.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	All costs increase from year to year and a CPI increase is reasonable and equitable however where costs rise above inflation local governments should have the autonomy to increase fees and charges to recover those costs.
xi) Do you have any additional comments on the topic of rates, fees and charges?		

Administrative efficiencies	Response	Comments
To what extent do you support the following statements?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“All local governments regardless of their size should have the same level of powers and responsibilities.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>The Act currently treats all local governments the same, regardless of their size and capacity. Through their peak bodies, the local government sector has long advocated for amendments which provide a tailored approach to local government governance to allow for the differences in capacity that are found across the State. Additional support by the Department may be required for those local governments that do not have the capacity or limited resources.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“The functions of the Grants Commission and the Advisory Board should be combined under one Board.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>The Advisory Board to also be responsible for Local Government Ward Boundary reviews.</p> <p>May need flexibility for both at certain times.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Membership of the Local Government Advisory Board and the Local Government Grants Commission should be required to be drawn from specific geographic locations, for example, metropolitan Perth as well as regional and remote Western Australia.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Prior to conducting a poll to change the method of election of the Mayor/President from election by electors to election by the council, the local government should be required to draft the question and summaries and submit the question to the Advisory Board.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“The Advisory Board should not assess a proposal for changes to boundaries that does not meet the minimum requirements.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>Advisory Board to determine.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“The petition of affected electors should require each signatory to sign an acknowledgement that they have read the summary of the proposal and have seen a plan or map detailing</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral	<p>The processes to undertake Ward boundary reviews is already quite complex and convoluted and this further requirement does not seem to achieve a specific desired outcome.</p>

Administrative efficiencies	Response	Comments
any proposed changes.”	<input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“The affected local government(s) should be provided with a copy of the proposal prior to it being submitted to the Advisory Board.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“The applicant should be able to withdraw a proposal at any time prior to a recommendation being made to the Minister, providing there are circumstances which, in the Advisory Board’s view, warrant withdrawal of the proposal.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
i) Currently a proposal to the Advisory Board from the community must be signed by 250 people or 10% of the community whichever is less. Should proposals from districts with a population over 5,000 be increased to 500 signatures?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
To what extent do you support the following statements?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“People need the power to impound stray cattle.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local governments need the power to impound stray cattle.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	Yes, through local laws that are developed for the specific requirements to the local government’s district.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“People need the power to detain and dispose of stray goats, pigs and poultry.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	

Administrative efficiencies	Response	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Offences that apply to pound keepers should also apply to similar facilities maintained by local governments, for example cats and dogs.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>Local governments should be subject to the same requirements as private operators.</p>
<p>Which of the following pieces of information should be provided by local governments to the Department and the Minister for Local Government?</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) s 4.79 Provide a report on the result of an election (ordinary or extra-ordinary election)</li> <li>b) s 5.3 Advise of the failure to hold council meetings within the last 3 months</li> <li>c) s 7.12A Provide a copy of the report that addresses the issues identified in the audit report</li> <li>d) LG (Audit) Reg 14 Provide a copy of the compliance audit report</li> <li>e) LG (Audit) Reg 15 Provide a certified copy of the compliance audit return</li> <li>f) LG (Constitution) Reg 11FA Provide a report on the result of an election (election of Mayor/President and Deputy Mayor/President)</li> <li>g) LG (Constitution) Reg 11H Advise the outcome of the Court of Disputed Returns (election of Mayor/President and Deputy Mayor/President)</li> <li>h) LG (Constitution) Form 2 Request for a poll on a recommended amalgamation</li> <li>i) LG (Elections) Reg 86 Advise the outcome of the Court of Disputed Returns (ordinary or extra-ordinary election)</li> <li>j) LG (Financial Management) Reg 33 Provide a copy of the annual budget</li> <li>k) LG (Financial Management) Reg 33A Provide a copy of the review and determination of the reviewed annual budget</li> <li>l) LG (Financial Management) Reg 51 Provide</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (a) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (c) <input type="checkbox"/> (d) <input type="checkbox"/> (e) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (f) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (g) <input type="checkbox"/> (h) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (i) <input type="checkbox"/> (j) <input type="checkbox"/> (k) <input type="checkbox"/> (l)	<p>Local governments are autonomous entities. Only to the extent that they are required to be regulated and overseen by the Minister, should local governments provide any information to the Minister.</p> <p>Question the value of the annual Compliance Audit Return considering that the same questions have been asked by the Department for 5 consecutive years with minimal change and no feedback. Processes and provision of information (consider the resources required to respond) must have a purpose and provide value and opportunities to improve.</p>

Administrative efficiencies	Response	Comments
a copy of the annual financial report		
Which of the following decisions should be made by the Minister?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) s 2.25 Approval for a leave of absences greater than six consecutive council meetings</li> <li>b) s 3.53 Ordering which local government is responsible for managing a facility that is located within two or more districts (only when the local governments themselves do not agree about how to manage the facility)</li> <li>c) s 3.59 Commencing or undertaking a major land transaction or trading undertaking (as required under the regulations)</li> <li>d) s 3.61 Establishing a regional local government</li> <li>e) s 3.65 Amending the establishment agreement of a regional local government</li> <li>f) s 3.69 Establishing a regional subsidiary</li> <li>g) s 3.70 Amendment to a regional subsidiary's charter</li> <li>h) s 5.7 Reducing the number of people required for a quorum or absolute majority</li> <li>i) s 5.69 Approval to participate in a meeting (after disclosing an interest)</li> <li>j) s 5.69A Exemption from some or all disclosure of interest requirements for committee members</li> <li>k) s 6.35 Minimum payment of rates on vacant land</li> <li>l) s 6.74 Approval to re-vest land to the State for non-payment of rates</li> <li>m) s 9.63 Direction to two or more local governments on how to resolve a dispute</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> (a)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> (b)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> (c)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> (d)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> (e)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> (f)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> (g)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> (h)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> (i)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> (j)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> (k)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> (l)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> (m)</li> </ul>	<p>Local governments are autonomous entities with Councils that are democratically elected. The Minister should have very limited powers (if any at all) to make any decisions that affect a local government.</p>
How should the following decisions be resolved by council? ( <b>S</b> imple, <b>A</b> bsolute or <b>S</b> pecial Majority)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) ss 3.12 &amp; 3.16 Making local laws</li> <li>b) s 3.59(5) Undertaking major land transactions or major trading activities</li> <li>c) s 4.17 Deciding if a councillor's seat should remain vacant prior to the next ordinary election (if the vacancy occurs between January and July in an election year)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP)</li> <li>(b) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP)</li> <li>(c) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP)</li> <li>(d) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP)</li> <li>(e) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP)</li> <li>(f) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP)</li> </ul>	<p>There is no additional value in having decisions made by Council by Special Majority considering that Absolute Majority provides for Council decisions to be made by 50% +1 of the number of Council member positions. This ensures that the required majority is met.</p> <p>Absolute Majority should be reserved for decisions that have a greater impact to the community.</p>

Administrative efficiencies	Response	Comments
d) s 4.20 Appointing the Electoral Commissioner to conduct an election or appointing a returning officer	(g) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP)	
e) s 4.57 Appointing a person to be a Councillor if no nominations are received twice for a vacant position	(h) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP) (i) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP) (j) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP)	
f) s 4.61 Deciding if an election should be a postal election	(k) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP) (l) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP)	
g) s 5.8 Establishing committees to assist council in the performance of powers and duties	(m) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP) (n) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP)	
h) ss 5.10 & 5.11A Appointing members (and deputies) to a committee	(o) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP) (p) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP)	
i) s 5.15 Reducing the number of offices required to form a quorum at a committee meeting (if required)	(q) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP) (r) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP)	
j) s 5.16 Delegating or revoking any local government powers and duties to a committee	(s) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP) (t) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP)	
k) s 5.36 Decisions on CEO's employment contract	(u) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP) (v) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP)	
l) s 5.42 & 5.45 Deciding to delegate powers or duties to the CEO (and revoke this delegation)	(w) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP) (x) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP)	
m) s 5.54 Accepting the annual report for a financial year	(y) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP) (z) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP)	
n) s 5.98A Deciding to pay the deputy mayor an additional allowance	(aa) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP) (bb) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP)	
o) s 5.99 Deciding to pay council members the prescribed minimum fee or a fee within the prescribed range	(cc) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP) (dd) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP)	
p) s 5.99A Deciding to pay council members an annual allowance or an allowance that has been set for expenses	(ee) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP) (ff) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP)	
q) s 6.2 Preparing and adopting a budget for the financial year	(gg) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP)	
r) s 6.3 Imposing a supplementary general rate or specified area rate	(hh) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP)	
s) s 6.8 Spending money from the municipal fund that was not in the annual budget	(ii) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP)	
t) s 6.11 Changing the purpose of a reserve account	(jj) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP)	
u) s 6.12 Granting a discount for the early payment of money, waiving or granting	(kk) <input type="checkbox"/> (S) <input type="checkbox"/> (A) <input type="checkbox"/> (SP)	



Administrative efficiencies	Response	Comments
<p>concessions, or writing off any amount owed to the local government</p> <p>v) s 6.13 Deciding to require a person to pay interest on an amount owed to a local government</p> <p>w) s 6.16 Imposing (or amending) a fee for goods or services</p> <p>x) s 6.20 Deciding to borrow and spend borrowed money</p> <p>y) s 6.32 Imposing a general rate on rateable land or a supplementary general rate in an emergency</p> <p>z) s 6.46 Granting a discount or other incentive for the early payment of any rate or service charge</p> <p>aa) s 6.47 Deciding to waive a rate or service charge</p> <p>bb) s 6.51 Deciding to impose interest on a rate or service charge or costs of proceedings to recover amounts unpaid</p> <p>cc) s 7.1A Appointing audit committee members</p> <p>dd) s 7.1B Delegating powers and duties to the audit committee</p> <p>ee) Sch 2.2 clause 4 Deciding to propose to the Advisory Board that a submission should be rejected or dealt with as a minor matter that does not require public submissions</p> <p>ff) Sch 2.2 clause 5 Making a proposal to the Minister or the Advisory Board to change the name of a district or ward</p> <p>gg) Sch 2.2 clause 9 Making a proposal to the Advisory Board to change ward boundaries, the name of the district or wards, or the number of councillors</p> <p>hh) LG (Admin) Reg 10(2) Deciding to revoke or change a decision made by absolute majority</p> <p>ii) LG (Admin) Reg 14A Deciding to approve a member to be present at a meeting via telephone</p> <p>jj) LG (Admin) Reg 19C and 19DA) Adopting a strategic community plan and corporate</p>		

Administrative efficiencies	Response	Comments
<p>business plan</p> <p>kk) LG (Financial Management) Reg 33A Determining whether to adopt a review of the budget or recommendations in the budget review</p>		
<p>ii) Which regulatory measures within the Act should be removed or amended to make the legislation more efficient? Please provide detailed analysis with your suggestions.</p> <p>Briefly describe the red tape problem you have identified.</p> <p>What is the impact of this problem? Please quantify if possible.</p> <p>What solutions can you suggest to solve this red tape problem?</p>		<p>Local governments should operate under the same or similar regulatory regime as State Government entities. Where local government is burdened by regulation that negatively impact business efficacy and is not a regulation that State Government entities are subject to, consideration should be given to alleviate that burdening regulation.</p>

Beneficial Enterprises	Response	Comments
<p>i) The local government sector has been requesting that it be given additional powers to form independent corporations. These entities could be used to manage part of a local government's existing business activity or pursue new commercial opportunities. To what extent do you support the following statement?</p> <p>ii) A local government should be able to create a company known as a beneficial enterprise.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Neutral</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive</p>	<p>Local government should have the ability to create Council Controlled Organisations (<b>CCO</b>) to provide any services (consider New Zealand Model) to realise additional revenue streams and provide for more efficient service delivery, consider waste services and shared ICT.</p> <p>The preferred model will allow local governments to develop a charter that is not embedded in legislation but provides the parameters under which the CCO can operate. This will provide a high level of transparency but also allows the CCO to act commercially. The CCO will be accountable to the Council, report on performance and be subject to audit requirements.</p> <p>Legislation should also allow local government to jointly form Beneficial Enterprises and to enter into joint ventures with corporations, consider leisure industry, golf courses, building and planning works, event management.</p> <p>The main objective is to reduce the reliance on rates, realise efficiencies not currently available to local government and to provide improved services.</p> <p>State Government should provide more authority to local governments in relation to Crown Reserves vested in and/or managed by local governments especially in relation to the use of such Crown Reserves. Local government need to diversify their revenue and income streams away from the heavy reliance on Rates and local governments should be allowed to undertake commercial activities for this purpose.</p> <p>The requirements under the Major Land Transactions and Major Trading Undertakings provisions are onerous and do not recognise commercial reality.</p>
<p>To what extent do you support the following statements?</p>		
<p>"There should be no limitations on a Local Government to create a beneficial enterprise."</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive</p>	<p>Some checks and balances are needed but should be performance and principles based criteria.</p>

Beneficial Enterprises	Response	Comments
	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<p>"Only local governments deemed to be a low risk should be allowed to create a beneficial enterprise."</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>Low risk in relation to financial and resource capacity – consider the skill set and expertise of the local government to create a beneficial enterprise.</p>
<p>"Only local governments that meet a threshold for financial health should be allowed to create a beneficial enterprise."</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>Low risk in relation to financial and resource capacity – consider the skill set and expertise of the local government to create a beneficial enterprise.</p>
<p>"Local governments should only be permitted to invest in a company up to a specific percentage of their annual expenditure."</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>Local government should have a legislative obligation to have an Investment Policy but needs to be based on more than just annual expenditure.</p>
<p>"Only local governments that are in band 1 &amp; 2 of the Salaries and Allowance Tribunal banding should be allowed to create a beneficial enterprise."</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>Should be based on financial and strategic robustness, not size as applied by the Salaries and Allowance Tribunal.</p>
<p>"Local government beneficial enterprises should be able to compete with private businesses."</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive	<p>Yes, but subject to National Competition Policy.</p>

Beneficial Enterprises	Response	Comments
	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<p>"Beneficial enterprises should have to employ staff under the same pay rates and conditions as employees of local governments."</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>No as otherwise it would be difficult to realise the benefits that the beneficial enterprise could provide.</p>
<p>"Local governments should have to tell their community how much they are investing in a beneficial enterprise."</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>Yes as the community are stakeholders and shareholders.</p>
<p>"Communities should be able to decide if their local governments can establish a beneficial enterprise."</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>Yes, but only through a Council decision.</p>
<p>iii) Which of the following functions should a local government beneficial enterprise be permitted to undertake?</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There should be no restrictions</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local governments should not be permitted to form a company</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statutory approvals for example building and planning</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	

Beneficial Enterprises	Response	Comments
• Leisure centres	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	
• Human resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	
• Information technology	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	
• Airports	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	
• Waste management	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	
• Parking	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	
• Road maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	
• Retail (shops and service stations)	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	
• Age or child care facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	
• Land development	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	
• Caravan parks	<input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree	
• Other, please specify:		
To what extent do you support the following statements?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "The local government should be required to guarantee any debt of a local government beneficial enterprise."</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	Considering that shareholders of a corporation in effect underwrite the debts of the corporation, the same should be applied for beneficial enterprises.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "The local government should be able to lend money to a local government beneficial enterprise."</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "The Western Australian Treasury Corporation</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive	Yes and should be no different as to lending directly to the

Beneficial Enterprises	Response	Comments
should be able to lend money to a local government beneficial enterprise"	<input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	local government.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"Commercial lenders should be able to lend money to a local government beneficial enterprise"</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	Yes and should be no different as to lending directly to the local government.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"The local government <u>must</u> receive approval from the Minister prior to creating a local government beneficial enterprise."</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	It is appropriate for the Minister to consider the business plan through a robust assessment process to be satisfied that the local government has sufficient resources, considered the risks (including financial) to create the beneficial enterprise.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"The local government <u>must</u> receive approval from the Treasurer prior to creating a local government beneficial enterprise."</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	No, the Minister can seek advice from the Treasurer if deemed appropriate.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"The Office of the Auditor General should be responsible for auditing local government beneficial enterprises."</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>Support the OAG's role, considering that local governments are audited by the OAG and beneficial enterprises are entities of local governments. However the costs of the OAG to undertake audits should be market competitive.</p> <p>Beneficial enterprises should not be constrained to the same degree as local governments to allow commercial viability, flexibly and to realise business efficacy.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"A local government beneficial enterprise should be required to hold public meetings."</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do you have any comments or feedback on the ability of a local government to form a beneficial enterprise?</li> </ul>		

Community Engagement	Responses	Comments
What methods of engagement do you believe are most effective (please select all options that apply)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) In person</li> <li>b) Telephone</li> <li>c) Online</li> <li>d) Community forums</li> <li>e) Citizen juries</li> <li>f) Other (please specify)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (a)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (c)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (d)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (e)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (f)</li> </ul>	Local and state wide public notice requirement to be satisfied by providing notice on the City's website. Notice to be maintained on the website until the public consultation period closes or as otherwise determined by the applicable legislation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How could local governments engage with different community groups (e.g. young people, seniors, families, people with disabilities, Aboriginal people and people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities, etc.)?</li> </ul>	Through the above mediums and in particular community forums and online (survey/social media) opportunities. In respect to family with disabilities, aboriginal people and CALD communities, a more targeted approach through cultural groups, elders, local area coordinators, advisory bodies will enable better engagement outcomes.	
To what extent do you support the following statements?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "The Act needs to set rules for community engagement by defining what community engagement is and how it should be done."</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Neutral</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Supportive</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive</li> </ul>	Local governments should determine the level of community engagement that meets the requirements of their community. Can consider a minimum standard or consultation requirement but need to be specifically defined with appropriate parameters.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Local governments should be required to adopt a community engagement charter or policy."</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Neutral</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive</li> </ul>	Prudent local governments will adopt community engagement policies to ensure that they are cognisant of community needs and expectations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "All local governments should operate under a universal community engagement charter or policy."</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Neutral</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Supportive</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive</li> </ul>	A basic definition, minimum standard and parameters should suffice for Local Governments to adapt a community engagement charter and policy reflective of their community, its demographic, diversity, etc.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Local governments should determine if they require a community engagement charter or policy and the content of that charter or policy."</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Neutral</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive</li> </ul>	



Community Engagement	Responses	Comments
Other jurisdictions have included principles with their engagement charter. How relevant do you believe each of these principles are?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engagement is genuine</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Irrelevant <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relevant	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engagement is inclusive and respectful</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Irrelevant <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relevant	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engagement is fit-for-purpose</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Irrelevant <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relevant	<p>It is dependent on the engagement purpose. There are times that Local Government is simply informing the community not looking for comments to support a decision.</p> <p>Needs to be a clear distinction between:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>informing</li> <li>consulting</li> <li>engaging</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engagement is informed and transparent</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Irrelevant <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relevant	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engagement processes must be reviewed and improved</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Irrelevant <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relevant	
In what circumstances should local governments be required to engage with the community? (please select all options that apply)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) When preparing or reviewing their Strategic Community Plan</li> <li>b) When preparing their annual budget</li> <li>c) Making a local law</li> <li>d) Planning matters</li> <li>e) Emergency and community infrastructure planning</li> <li>f) Only when the local government determines that it is necessary</li> <li>g) Other (please specify)</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (a) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (c) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (d) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (e) <input type="checkbox"/> (f) <input type="checkbox"/> (g)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>d) Certain matters based on impact to the Community.</li> </ul> <p>Other – when a matter/project/activity/plan/development/etc. fits within a defined parameter constituting a need to engage.</p>

Community Engagement	Responses	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would you like to make any further comments regarding community engagement?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supportive of some minimum standards or parameters in respect to planning, be it tiered or otherwise for varying sizes of local governments then elaborate and adopt an approach to suit.</li> <li>• Supportive and see some value of publishing “appropriate” and “fair” KPIs to measure levels of success as a means for benchmarking – both from community’s perspective and local government comparisons.</li> <li>• Supportive of State Government using local government documents to better inform their policy and service delivery – collaboration, awareness, .</li> <li>• Supportive (where possible) of integration of plans – may not be across the board, but grouped and integrated where feasible.</li> <li>• Community should be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Involved in development of strategic plan.</li> <li>b. Provided with opportunity for some level of feedback through drafting process at least.</li> <li>c. Notified (published) of local government plans and reports.</li> <li>d. Able to assess a local government’s success in achieving priorities – e.g. through an aligned, periodic Community Satisfaction Survey or the like</li> </ul> </li> <li>• With respect to meeting community engagement requirements when developing their IPR documents, would suggest the need to demonstrate the community has been engaged in the development of and completion of draft plans, including an effort and evidence it is representative of the community’s diverse population.</li> </ul>	

Complaints Management	Responses	Comments
What matters need to be considered in complaints management policies and procedures (please select all that apply)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) How the application must be made</li> <li>b) How a response to a complaint is to be made</li> <li>c) Opportunities for a review of a response</li> <li>d) The timeframes related to the process or review</li> <li>e) Notification requirements of the process</li> <li>f) Reporting of the complaints received</li> <li>g) Internal independent review of complaints</li> <li>h) None of these options</li> <li>i) Other (please specify)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (a)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (c)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (d)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (e)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (f)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (g)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> (h)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> (i)</li> </ul>	Local governments should have the autonomy to develop their complaint management policies, however should consider best practice (Ombudsman guidelines) and apply Australian Standards.
i) To what extent do you support this statement?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “A customer service charter should set the framework for local government complaints management.”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Supportive</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive</li> </ul>	Local governments should have the autonomy to develop their customer service charter and framework.
ii) Should a local government customer service charter be a legislative requirement?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Unsure</li> </ul>	
iii) Who should review unresolved complaints (please select all options that apply)?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Different staff member in the local government</li> <li>b) A qualified complaints management officer</li> <li>c) A committee created by the local government</li> <li>d) A tabled decision for council to determine</li> <li>e) None of the people or groups listed above</li> <li>f) Other (please specify)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> (a)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> (b)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> (c)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> (d)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (e)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> (f)</li> </ul>	Local governments should deal with complaints through their established mechanisms (including appeals and reviews) and refer to external oversight bodies (Ombudsman and the Department) when those mechanisms have been exhausted.
iv) Do you have any additional comments on the topic of complaints management?	There is a clear need for statutory provisions and procedures to be established to assist local governments in dealing with vexatious and frivolous complainants, to ensure the appropriate balance is achieved in providing natural justice and procedural fairness to the complainant and the resource intensive investigations undertaken to deal with the complaint. It is not considered appropriate to establish a new statutory body as the WA Ombudsman provides sufficient guidance in this respect. Once the head of power is in place, this must be supported by robust guidelines from the DLGSC to ensure Local Governments are adequately equipped and supported to make a decision based on the guidelines.	

Council Meetings	Response	Comments
i) To what extent do you support the following statements?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“The process for public question time should be consistent between councils.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>To ensure that the community expectations can be met and consistency of process, local governments should have the same or similar processes in place for public question time.</p> <p>Questioners should be required to provide the suburb where they live but not their actual address.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Public question time is an important feature of council meetings.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>Note that only a very few community members attend Council meetings so whilst important, public question time is not accessed by the majority of the community.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“People unhappy with the quality of the answer given at public question time should be able to escalate the matter to an independent person.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>This undermines the autonomy and authority of the Council.</p>
ii) Should council members be able to participate in meetings remotely?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	<p>The current Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 allows for attendance by telephone, however only if approved by Council and in a suitable place. A suitable place is then defined as in a town site as defined in the Land Administration Act 1997. This restricts an Elected Members ability to attend the meeting to a town site in Western Australia.</p> <p>This requirement does not cater for remote locations or the ability to attend via teleconference whilst in another state or overseas. The regulations require amendment to consider allowing attendance at a meeting via technology from any location suitable to a Council.</p>

Council Meetings	Response	Comments
iii) If yes, how?	Skype/Video Link providing appropriate resources are available.	
iv) Could General Electors Meetings be combined with or held consecutively with an Ordinary Council Meeting?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	This has the potential to create confusion.
v) Should Council Meetings be live streamed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsure	Local governments should have the autonomy to determine if Council meetings should be live streamed however consider the risks of doing so. However certain protections should be in place, including a form of privilege.
To what extent do you support the following statements?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Legislation should set rules for recording confidential items in minutes.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	Local governments should have the autonomy to determine.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local governments should be required to publish unconfirmed council meeting minutes prior to the local government’s next council or committee meeting.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	Local governments should have the autonomy to determine.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“The CEO rather than the Presiding Member should be responsible for the minutes of council and committee meetings.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	This is an administrative function that should rest with the CEO however the Presiding Member should certify that the minutes have been confirmed by Council.
To what extent do you support the following statements?		
“The requirement to hold an annual electors meeting should be removed.”	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	The Annual Report is presented to a Council meeting prior to being presented at an Electors General Meeting providing residents the opportunity to ask question at this forum. It is a repetitive and inefficient process to require that it be presented again at an Electors General Meeting. Additionally, there are many opportunities for the public to participate in Council matters especially

Council Meetings	Response	Comments
		considering numerous electronic options. The City publishes the Annual Report on its website soon after it is adopted by Council and well before the 10 days period stated in the proposal.
"The ability to call a special electors meeting should be removed."	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	That Section 5.28(1)(a) be amended:  (a) so that the prescribed number of electors required to request a meeting increase from 100 (or 5% of electors) to 500 (or 5% of electors), whichever is fewer; and
"The number of times that a special electors meeting can be called on the same matter should be restricted."	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	That Section 5.28(1)(b) be amended:  (b) to preclude the calling of Electors' Special Meeting on the same issue within a 12 month period, unless Council determines otherwise.
"The number of electors required to hold a special electors meeting should be increased."	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
"The Local Government's standing orders should apply to special electors meetings."	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	No as the Presiding Member can and should determine the procedure for a special electors meeting.
"The way special electors meetings are conducted should be uniform between local governments."	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	No as the Presiding Member can and should determine the procedure for a special electors meeting.

Council Meetings	Response	Comments
vi) Do you have any additional comments on the topic of council meetings?	<b>Revoking or Changing decisions</b>	Regulation 10 provides a mechanism for the revocation or change to a previous decision of Council. It does not however, contain any provision clarifying that the provisions do not apply to Council decisions that have already been implemented. This regulatory deficiency is currently managed administratively, but warrants an appropriate amendment to assist clarifying the rights of a Councillor to seek a revocation or change.

Elections	Response	Comments
i) To what extent do you support the following statements?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Voting should be compulsory.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree	<p>Compulsory voting would increase the costs associated with Local Government Elections including for candidates contesting elections and the resources needed to determine whether those who failed to vote have valid reasons for not voting.</p> <p>To increase voter participation, postal voting should be encouraged as well as online voting.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Voting should be conducted via a preferential voting system.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree	<p>First Past the Post is the preferred method and is commonly understood by the community at large</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Electronic and online voting should be made available for local government elections.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree	<p>Council supports on-line voting and the subsequent change to legislation to facilitate this subject to the availability of a cost effective and secure system that guarantees security of information and maintains the integrity of the electoral process.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“The use of electronic or online voting would not change my confidence in the voting system.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Legislation should be introduced that would permit online voting to be trialled.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree	<p>Online voting should be permitted without a trial but if a trial is required then this is supported.</p>
Which local governments should be required to offer postal voting?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Postal voting should not be required to be offered</li> <li>b) All local governments</li> <li>c) Local governments with a population greater than 1,000 people</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> (a) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b) <input type="checkbox"/> (c) <input type="checkbox"/> (d)	<p>The City supports local governments determining whether to conduct their elections by postal elections however considers that the WAEC should not have a monopoly for conducting postal elections. Local governments are required to achieve value for money in</p>



Elections	Response	Comments
d) Unsure		<p>their procurement activities and this should also extend to undertaking postal elections, whether that be to allow local governments to undertake postal elections themselves or by contracting either the AEC, the WAEC or another capable entity.</p> <p>An external contractor can also provide an 'at-arms-length' and independent management of the electoral process. Notwithstanding that the AEC or WAEC have sophisticated processes and systems in place to manage postal elections, this does not preclude a corporate organisation from providing these services.</p>
Which local governments should be required to use the WA Electoral Commission?		
a) No local governments should be required to use the WA Electoral Commission b) All local governments c) Local governments with a population greater than 1,000 people d) Unsure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (a) <input type="checkbox"/> (b) <input type="checkbox"/> (c) <input type="checkbox"/> (d)	Local governments should have the autonomy to determine who to engage to conduct their elections.
ii) Should the WA Electoral Commission be the only organisation authorised to conduct local government postal voting?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
What method should be used to resolve ties in council elections?		
a) Drawing of lots (random selection) b) Unsure c) Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> (a) <input type="checkbox"/> (b) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (c)	The elected Councillors should determine the candidate to be elected to Council.
To what extent do you support the following statements?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"A count-back from the previous election result should be used if available to fill vacancies between elections."</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very Supportive	

Elections	Response	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local governments should be required to adopt a caretaker period that restricts council from making major decisions during a local government election period.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very Supportive	<p>In principle, caretaker periods are appropriate however care needs to be exercised considering that State Government has elections every 4 years and local government elections are every 2 years. So with 50% of Council continuing there is the potential for major disruption when there is so much business required to run the Council.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Caretaker periods are only required in large local governments.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very Supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Council members who contest a State or Federal election should be required to take a leave of absence on the day of their nomination for a State or Federal election campaign.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very Supportive	
<p>To what extent do you agree with the following statements?</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“People who have been convicted under planning or building legislation offences in the past should be disqualified from serving as a council member.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Council elections should be held every four years rather than every two years with all council members being elected at the same time.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“A cap should be set on the maximum amount that a candidate may spend on their campaign.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree	<p>Financial capacity should not dictate the outcome of an election or influence the democratic process.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Prospective candidates should be required to</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree	

Elections	Response	Comments
declare their profession or primary source of income on the nomination form.”	<input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local governments should be required to publish candidate profiles on the website.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Information collected on the nomination form should include demographic information such as gender and ethnicity.”</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strongly disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Strongly Agree	
To what extent do you agree with the following statements?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“People who own land but who do not live in a district should be eligible to vote.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very Supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“People who lease rateable property in a district should be entitled to vote.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very Supportive	Yes as that person resides in the local government district and should have a say in who represents their interests.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Corporations that own property in a district should be entitled to vote.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very Supportive	Yes as a corporation is a legal entity and should have a say in who represents their interests.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Corporations that lease property should be entitled to vote.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral	Yes as a corporation is a legal entity and should have a say in who represents their interests.

Elections	Response	Comments
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very Supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Occupiers of land, for example, commercial lease holders, should be eligible to vote.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very Supportive	<p>Yes as that occupier has an interest in the land within the local government district and should have a say in who represents their interests.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"Only people over the age of 18 who live in a district should be eligible to vote."</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very Supportive	
<p>How should the position of Mayor or Shire President be determined?</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Vote by electors</li> <li>b) Vote by council members</li> <li><b>c) A method determined by council</b></li> <li>d) Unsure</li> <li>e) Other (please specify)</li> </ul>	<p>c)</p>	<p>Local governments can determine how the Mayor/President is elected once the district is established. Should electors propose to change the method of election for the Mayor then it is suggested that the number of electors or the percentage total of electors required to do so should be reviewed in line with population growth. The Act already has provisions for Council to determine how the Mayor/President is elected.</p>
<p>To what extent do you agree with the following statement</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“The rules regulating non-election gifts and election gifts should be aligned.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very Supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Election gifts and donations should be declared regardless of when they are received.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Very Supportive	<p>Yes but would be extremely difficult to appropriately legislate and enforce.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“A register of election gifts and donations should be</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Unsupportive	

Elections	Response	Comments
available online.”	<input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very Supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Donors should also be required to declare election gifts and donations made.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very Supportive	The Act already requires that donors declare political donations.
Should gifts or donations from any of the following be prohibited? (please select all options that apply)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Real estate agents</li> <li>b) Property developers</li> <li>c) Political parties</li> <li>d) Liquor or gambling business entities</li> <li>e) Tobacco industry business entities</li> <li>f) No election gifts or donations should be prohibited</li> <li>g) All election gifts or donations should be prohibited</li> <li>h) Other (please specify)</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (a) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b) <input type="checkbox"/> (c) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (d) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (e) <input type="checkbox"/> (f)	h) Anyone who is applying for Council to exercise discretion.
To what extent do you support the following statements?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“A local government should be required to have a ward structure if it reaches a certain population threshold.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very Supportive	Local governments should have the autonomy to determine irrespective of population
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“A local government with fewer than 800 people should not have wards.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very Supportive	Local governments should have the autonomy to determine irrespective of population
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Ward boundaries should be set by the Electoral Commissioner.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral	

Elections	Response	Comments
	<input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very Supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “The number of members that a council has should be linked to the local government’s population.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very Supportive	
iii) How can participation be increased to ensure that Western Australia’s diverse population is represented in local government?	Campaign drives around local government election times to raise awareness of the elections but also about local governments and the services provided by local government.	
iv) Do you have any other comments or feedback on local government elections?		

Financial Management	Response	Comments
i) To what extent do you support the following statements?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local government purchasing rules should be consistent with the State Government.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>Procurement activities of local governments are not dissimilar in volume or value to that of State Government departments and therefore it is considered appropriate that the same thresholds apply especially as local governments can also access State Government Common Use Agreements.</p> <p>General procurement principles published by State Government should be adhered to across both State and local government requiring open and effective competition, procurement planning, contract management and value for money assessment. Access to State Government common use arrangements also provide similar benefits to WALGA preferred supplier panels. Common purchasing thresholds would assist to improve consistency and ensure greater alignment with State Government purchasing levels.</p> <p>WALGA Panel should not preclude other service providers that could provide a better price or service.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Different procurement rules should apply to different local governments.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>There should be consistency across local governments.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local governments with few staff or small operating budgets should have fewer procurement rules to comply with.”</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>Regardless of local government’s operating budget size, the procurement risks remain the same.</p>
ii) What criteria should be used to set the threshold for when a local government must publicly advertise a tender? (select all options that should apply) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. None. Procurement rules should be consistent across local government</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (a) <input type="checkbox"/> (b)	

Financial Management	Response	Comments
b. A percentage of a local government's average operating expenditure c. Salaries and Allowances Tribunal bands d. An independent risk assessment e. Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> (c) <input type="checkbox"/> (d) <input type="checkbox"/> (e)	
iii) Should the regulations set a threshold that a CEO is permitted to spend without needing approval from council?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	Council delegation of authority already can provide for setting such thresholds and it should be a Council decision to delegate such authority to the CEO considering the risks and controls that a local government has.
iv) Should the amount that a CEO is permitted to spend without needing additional approval from Council be scaled according to the local government's size or capacity?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	Council delegation of authority can provide parameters and conditions on how to exercise the authority to incur expenditure.
To what extent do you support the following statements?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local governments should be permitted to invest surplus revenue.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	This allows a local government to earn an investment income that will support increasing non-rates revenue.  Legislation should require that local government adopt an Investment Policy.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local government should have fewer restrictions on their ability to invest surplus revenue.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Different local governments should have different investment powers and rules.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	Investment powers and rules should be uniform across all local governments. The scale can be different depending on the size of the local government.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Certain types of investments should require independent approval.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral	It may be prudent to obtain independent advice for more complex investment decisions.



Financial Management	Response	Comments
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
Should local governments be required to give public notice in any of the following situations? (please select all options that should apply)		
a) Where a local government wishes to borrow money outside amounts listed in the annual budget b) Where a local government has exercised its power to borrow for a purpose but no longer wishes to use the funds for that purpose c) Where a local government has exercised its power to borrow for a purpose and has funding left over d) Public notice is not required in any of these situations e) Unsure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (a) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b) (no) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (c) (No) <input type="checkbox"/> (d) <input type="checkbox"/> (e)	
v) Should local governments be permitted to secure loans using assets that they own freehold?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
vi) Should local government be permitted to participate in Building Upgrade Finance programs?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
vii) What types of upgrades should be eligible for the program?		
a) Environmental upgrades b) Commercial upgrades c) Both environmental and commercial d) Neither e) Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> (a) <input type="checkbox"/> (b) <input type="checkbox"/> (c) <input type="checkbox"/> (d) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (e)	
Do you have any additional comments on the topic of financial management?		

Integrated Planning and Reporting	Response	Comments
i) To what extent do you support the following statements?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Long-term and operational planning is an area where reform is required.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“A local government should be free to conduct its long-term and operational planning in whatever manner it wishes.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local governments should conduct their long-term and operational planning in the same way.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local governments with smaller populations and fewer staff should have fewer rules for how they conduct long-term and operational planning.”</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	Local governments with fewer resources and with constrained financial capacity do not have the resources to implement sophisticated systems and controls and therefore most probably require more stringent rules to meet governance standards.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Governments with larger populations and more staff should have fewer rules setting how they conduct long-term and operational planning.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Integrated Planning and Reporting documents need to be reviewed too frequently.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	Reviewing plans is considered business as usual however the local government should determine when reviews are required.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“The timelines for reviewing Integrated Planning and Reporting documents need to be synchronised with</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive	Yes but ultimately to be determined by the local government.

Integrated Planning and Reporting	Response	Comments
council election cycles.”	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“There should be consequences for not complying with Integrated Planning and Reporting requirements.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
Should Integrated Planning and Reporting requirements differ based on any of the following criteria?		
Population size	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
Geographical size	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
Location	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
Salaries and Allowances Tribunal banding	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
Other, please specify		
To what extent do you support the following statements?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local governments should be required to publish measures of success in implementing their long-term and operational plans.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	Yes and should be included in the Annual Report
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local governments should be required to publish measures of success against uniform key performance indicators.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral	Uniform KPI's do not always provide the outcome sought; consider inappropriate financial ratios as an example.

Integrated Planning and Reporting	Response	Comments
	<input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“It is important that measures of success are comparable.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local governments should determine if they publish measures of success and what these measures should be.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	Yes and should be included in the Annual Report
To what extent do you support the following statements?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“The State Government should use local government Integrated Planning and Reporting documents to inform policy and service delivery.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“All local government plans, including Local Public Health Plans, Disability Access Plans and Town Planning Schemes, should be combined under Integrated Planning and Reporting.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local government Integrated Planning and Reporting needs to be conducted at a regional level to influence State Government policy and service delivery.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
What should the role of the community be in Integrated Planning and Reporting?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be actively involved in the development of the Strategic Community Plan</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	

Integrated Planning and Reporting	Response	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide feedback to the local government on Draft Strategic Community Plans and Corporate Business Plans</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be notified of a local government's plans and reports (for example, publication of these documents on the local government's website)</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To assess the local government's success in achieving the priorities identified in the Strategic Community Plan</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	Yes and should be included in the Annual Report
Should all Local Governments have to meet the following community engagement requirements when developing their IPR documents?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A minimum number of people or percentage of people involved in the engagement process</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that community engagement is representative of the community's diverse population</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrate the community has been engaged in the development of plans</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrate the community has been consulted on the completion of draft plans</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other (please specify)</li> </ul>		
ii) Should community engagement requirements be the same for all local governments?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
iii) Do you have any other comments on the topic of Integrated Planning and Reporting?	Ensure that service levels are transparent for customers as this will also help explain the cost of delivering such services.	

Interventions	Response	Comments
i) Depending on the nature of the allegation, different parties are responsible for receiving allegations of breaches of the Act. Should the Department responsible for local government be responsible for receiving all allegations of breaches of the Act?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	Yes but also consider the Victorian model and the role of a Local Government Commissioner and the oversight body for local government.
To what extent are you concerned about behaviour and good governance in local government?		
a) A great deal b) A lot c) A moderate amount d) A little e) Not at all	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (a) <input type="checkbox"/> (b) <input type="checkbox"/> (c) <input type="checkbox"/> (d) <input type="checkbox"/> (e)	Considering the issues faced by certain local governments it is concerning but local governments should be supported to improve their governance process. The support should be available from the Department which should be resourced accordingly.
To what extent do you support the following statements?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“The Act should enable an external person to be appointed to work with a local government’s administration to improve governance and resolve problems.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>Early intervention when requested by the local government (without the need for a breach to have occurred) is preferable.</p> <p>The Department should not only seek compliance or act as an enforcement agency but instead be supportive and assist with capacity building.</p> <p>The appointed person’s authority to be restricted to providing advice and support, especially by making recommendations to the Council. The State Government should pay for the appointed person unless the assistance of the appointed person is specifically required by the local government, which the local government should then pay for.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“An external person appointed to work with a local government’s administration to improve governance and resolve problems should have the powers to direct the administration and override decisions made by the administration.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“The external person should be appointed by</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive	

Interventions	Response	Comments
the Minister.”	<input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“The costs of appointing an external person to work with an administration to improve governance and resolve problems in a local government should be met by the local government.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	Where the appointed external has been appointed at the request of the local government.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“The costs of appointing an external person to work with an administration to improve governance and resolve problems in a local government should be met by the State Government.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	Where the appointed external has been appointed without being requested by the local government.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“The Act should enable an external person to be appointed to work with council members to improve governance and resolve problems.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"An external person appointed to work with council members should have the power to direct the council."</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“An external person appointed to work with council members to improve governance and resolve problems should have the powers to override council decisions.”</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“An external person should be appointed by the Minister.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive	

Interventions	Response	Comments
	<input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“The costs of appointing an external person to work with council members to improve governance and resolve problems in a local government should be met by the local government.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>Where the appointed external has been appointed at the request of the Council.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“The costs of appointing an external person to work with council members to improve governance and resolve problems in a local government should be met by the State Government.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>Where the appointed external has been appointed without being requested by the Council.</p>
<p>To what extent do you support the following statements?</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Former local government council members, committee members and employees should be prosecuted if they misuse information.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>This would be difficult to regulate considering that former local government council members, committee members and employees are not under the jurisdiction of the Act and would be nearly impossible to enforce.</p> <p>Also consider that no such prohibitions exist for former State or Federal parliamentarians.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local government council members, committee members or employees should be prosecuted if they use their position to cause detriment to the local government or any person.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“People who knowingly provide false or misleading information to a council should be prosecuted.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local government employees that breach procurement rules should be prosecuted.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	



Interventions	Response	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“When a breach of the Act is identified an infringement notice should be issued as is the case for traffic offences.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
ii) To what extent do you support the following statements?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“In cases where a local law does not define a penalty amount, the Act should set a default penalty amount.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	Local governments should have the ability to determine the appropriate penalties to apply for breach of their local laws.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local governments need greater powers to direct property owners to tidy property for amenity, health and safety reasons.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	Current legislative requirements are sufficient.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local governments need greater powers to direct property owners and occupiers to remove items like disused motor vehicles for amenity, health and safety reasons.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	Current legislative requirements are sufficient.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local governments should be able to destroy property or items removed from a property within 28 days when there has been a breach of a local law or regulations. This might include rubbish, goods deemed to be of little value, or decaying items.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	Consider that perishable goods or consumables may decay without being stored in appropriate facilities that may be cost prohibitive for the local government. The time period should be tiered depending on the type of item and also allow a defined period where impounded must be collected and if not collected within that time, to be disposed of by the local government.
iii) Do you have any additional comments on this topic of interventions?		

Local Laws	Response	Comments
i) Should any of the following topics covered by local laws be replaced by state-wide regulations?		Inconsistency of local laws is an ongoing concern, with differences between local governments regarding content, as well as mechanism and practices to enforce them. Inconsistencies and different approaches by local governments may constitute a burden for businesses and the community. The standardisation of local laws is supported as long as the ability of local governments to make individual alterations and determinations is retained to address specific community issues. This will assist in avoiding the lengthy and procedural local law process.
• Activities on thoroughfares and trading	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
• Beekeeping	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
• Cemeteries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
• Dogs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
• Cats	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
• Extractive industries	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
• Fencing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
• Bush fire brigades	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	

Local Laws	Response	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting procedures (standing orders)</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pest plants</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public places and Local Government property</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parking</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waste</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urban environment and nuisance</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other (please specify)</li> </ul>		
ii) Should model local laws be prepared by State Government for local governments to use?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	Consider that WALGA develops model local laws.
iii) Should local governments be permitted to adapt the contents of model local laws?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	Remove the requirement to consult on model local laws when they are adopted in their entirety. Only provide public notice on its adoption, implementation and where local laws differ from the model.

Local Laws	Response	Comments
iv) Currently a local government is required to consult for a period of six weeks. If a local government adopts a model local law without modification, how long should the mandatory consultation period be?		Remove the requirement to consult on model local laws when they are adopted in their entirety. Only provide public notice on its adoption, implementation and where local laws differ from the model.
a) Less than 6 weeks b) Greater than 6 weeks c) 6 weeks as it is currently d) The requirement for public consultation should be removed entirely e) A duration determined by council	<input type="checkbox"/> (a) <input type="checkbox"/> (b) <input type="checkbox"/> (c) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (d) <input type="checkbox"/> (e)	Consideration to be given to removing the need for state-wide public notice.
If a local government is seeking to adopt a model local law that it has modified, how long should the mandatory consultation period be?		
a) Less than 6 weeks b) Greater than 6 weeks c) 6 weeks as it is currently d) The requirement for public consultation should be removed entirely e) A duration determined by council	<input type="checkbox"/> (a) <input type="checkbox"/> (b) <input type="checkbox"/> (c) <input type="checkbox"/> (d) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (e)	
v) To what extent do you support the following statements?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“The Department should continue to provide comment on proposed local laws prior to consideration by Parliament’s Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	The Department may not be fully knowledgeable in respect of local issues and would be more appropriate to take on an advisory role as to process.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local governments should be required to modify proposed local laws according to the instructions of the Department.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	If local governments are required to have a legal practitioner certify that a local law is within power and legally enforceable then this should not be a requirement.

Local Laws	Response	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local governments should be required to have a legal practitioner certify that a local law is within power and legally enforceable.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>If necessary, legislation can require that local laws are vetted by an external lawyer and a certificate provided to accompany the Explanatory Memorandum, after submissions but before gazettal.</p>
Should local governments be required to periodically review their local laws?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) No</li> <li>b) Yes, every 6 years or less</li> <li>c) Yes, every 8 years</li> <li>d) Yes, between 8 and 10 years</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (a) <input type="checkbox"/> (b) <input type="checkbox"/> (c) <input type="checkbox"/> (d)	<p>No, unless there is a requirement through changes in the environment or State legislation requiring amendment.</p>
vi) Do you have any additional comments on the topic of local laws?	More guidance needed on what matters local governments have authority to make local laws.	

Rates, fees and Charges	Response	Comments
<p>i) To what degree are you concerned about rates?</p>	<p> <input type="checkbox"/> Not at all  <input type="checkbox"/> A little  <input type="checkbox"/> A moderate amount  <input type="checkbox"/> A lot  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A great deal </p>	<p>The Act contains provisions to exempt properties from rates where they meet certain charitable criteria. These provisions were not altered when the Act was updated in 1995 and they had been in place for many years prior to that. These provisions have always been difficult to interpret and apply consistently. In recent years, they have become unworkable. The Act is outdated and the provisions have always been difficult to interpret and apply consistently.</p> <p>Previously, charitable exemptions were claimed for and provided to not-for-profit agencies providing very basic housing at a subsidised rent to needy families and individuals. This recognised that the not-for-profit owners were providing housing at a financial cost to themselves. More recently, these existing properties have been redeveloped and additional properties purchased to provide a completely new form of facility, the retirement village with independent living units. New property developments and a more focussed businesslike approach by not-for-profit agencies have targeted the potential provided by the very loosely worded charitable exemption provisions.</p> <p>All Independent Living Units should be rated but concessions may be considered. The exemption should only apply to the Nursing Home and Aged Care Hostel portion of the property which is governed by the Commonwealth Aged Care Act 1997.</p> <p>Local governments should have the ability to request the Minister's approval to grant a rate exemption for the Nursing Home portion of a property and rate the independent living units regardless if the owner/s of the property are a charitable organisation or not.</p>

Rates, fees and Charges	Response	Comments
		<p>There needs to be a clearer definition of 'Charitable' so that there are no grey areas in the Act that can be open to interpretation. It should clearly state who can receive a rate exemption and not use the word 'Charitable'.</p> <p>Section 6.26(d) - Land used or held exclusively by a religious body as a place of public worship in relation to that worship, a place of residence of a minister or religion, or convent, nunnery or monastery, or occupied exclusively by a religious brotherhood or sisterhood.</p> <p>Over recent years there has been an increase in the number of 'Religious Bodies' purchasing land and building places of public worship. There is ambiguity as to what is a 'Religious Body', and how local governments can determine what is a 'Religious Body' as there is no definition in the Act or the State Interpretations Act.</p> <p>The rate burden should be distributed evenly across all property owners. There should be equity and fairness in rating or exemption of these types of facilities in the same way that there is a whole of state approach to the provision of rebates and deferrals for pensioners.</p> <p>The issue of time-based differential rating should be examined, to address some Local Governments view that vacant land should be developed in a timely manner.</p> <p><b>Fees and Charges</b></p> <p>Fees and Charges for services are a significant</p>

Rates, fees and Charges	Response	Comments
		<p>source of income for a local government and at the very least should be set to recover the costs of the service or where the service provides a significant community need be subsidised by the local government taking into consideration the need of the local community.</p> <p>The process for establishing fees and charges and making minor amendments after the budget is adopted, other than statutory charges is inefficient and costly. Especially when a local government is required to capture minor fees and charges such as photocopy charges. Without capturing fees in the Fees and Charges schedule, a local government has no ability to levy a charge for a particular service. Additionally some fees remain unchanged from one budget to another and do not necessarily provide for a cost recovery or profit.</p> <p>Acknowledging the Fees and Charges setting process, a local government has no input in relation to Fees and Charges set by the State Government. This should be amended to allow for consultation with the sector to ensure that statutory fees are set with full cost recovery in mind. Examples of such fees and charges and those set under the Planning and Development Act and the Council fee in relation to the Emergency Services Levy.</p> <p>It is also noted that further clarity around a local government's ability to waive fees and charges is also required especially in relation to the current position that a debt must be incurred first before the fee/charge can be waived.</p>



Rates, fees and Charges	Response	Comments
ii) Do you support the following statements?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local governments should be required to prepare a Rates and Revenue Strategy each financial year.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	<p>Local governments should have a Rates and Revenue Strategy, however to prepare this document each financial year is excessive.</p> <p>A Rates and Revenue Strategy should be mandatory with a review to be carried out every 3 years.</p> <p>Local governments already have a Long Term Financial Plan which includes Revenue Policy.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“The value of the property should continue to be used to partially determine the value of the rates payable.”</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	<p>This disperses the impost of rates evenly. Consider how a property in a lower socio economic suburb be charged the same level of rates as a property in a more affluent suburb.</p> <p>This is the best method to clearly give comparative application to normalisation of property rateability.</p> <p>It is considered appropriate that there are more than one method to value land considering the type of land and its use. The model applied by the local governments in the Eastern States seems to have merit but requires further investigation.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local governments should be required to advertise all of their proposed rates and consider any submissions made, prior to adopting their budget.”</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	<p>This provides the opportunity for ratepayers to lodge submissions and is a more transparent process.</p> <p>The current form of required advertising provides little value and the adoption of the Long Term Financial Plan provides the best mechanism to explain this for the community.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Under the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i>, local governments may not advertise their rates prior to 1 May. Local governments should be permitted to advertise their rates at any time</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	<p>The current time frame is very tight for local governments to adopt their budget in June. By changing this date to 1 April this would allow sufficient time for the process to be carried out.</p>

Rates, fees and Charges	Response	Comments
leading up to the adoption of their budget.”		The current form of required advertising provides little value and the adoption of the Long Term Financial Plan provides the best mechanism to explain this for the community.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“All types of rateable property should pay the same rate in the dollar, regardless of how the land is used.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	<p>For a local government that has a diverse rate base that includes GRV Residential, Commercial/Industrial and Vacant Land as well as UV Residential, Commercial/Industrial, Vacant Land and Rural/Mining uniformly rating would not be fair and equitable to all ratepayers.</p> <p>There are strategic reasons for differences. Consider that industrial may be undesirable in some areas.</p>
iii) Should the legislation set the rating categories that can be used by local governments?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	This provides consistency across all local governments but is too prescriptive.
If rating categories are set in legislation, what would be appropriate categories?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residential</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	This is a common category across all local governments.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rural residential</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	This is a common category across a majority of local governments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commercial</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	This is a common category across all local governments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Industrial</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	This is a common category across all local governments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vacant</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	This is a common category across all local governments

Rates, fees and Charges	Response	Comments
	<input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mining</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	This is a common category across a majority of local governments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mining - exploration and prospecting (separate from general mining)</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	This is a common category across a majority of local governments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farming</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	This is a common category across a majority of local governments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not-for-profit organisation or charity</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	Local governments currently do not rate 'Charitable' organisations. However, these should be rated on the use of the land, consider residential or commercial/vacant.
iv) If rating categories were set in legislation, should local governments be permitted to introduce sub-categories within the set categories based on factors such as the type of mining being undertaken, the intensity of the land use or the type of commercial activity?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
v) What powers should local governments have to recover payment of rates on exploration and prospecting leases?	The same powers to recover rates from any non-paying rate payer.	
vi) To what extent do you support the following statements?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Local governments should be permitted to rate properties differently based on their location."</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	Land use is different based on the location.

Rates, fees and Charges	Response	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local governments should be permitted to rate long term vacant properties differently to land that is being used.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>This would encourage the development of land stimulating growth and development in the community.</p> <p>The Act should allow for differential rating to enable a differential rate to be applied on the basis of the length of time a property has remained in an undeveloped state.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local governments should be permitted to rate holiday houses, timeshare properties or AirBNB properties differently.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>This would be very difficult to enforce considering that there is currently not legislative requirement to register or even notify properties used for these purposes.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“A lower rate in the dollar should apply to land used for exploration and prospecting compared to land used for mining.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>The impact of exploration and prospecting is less than the impact of actual mining operations.</p>
<p>Currently, local governments are required to seek Ministerial approval when seeking to impose a rate in the dollar that is more than twice the lowest of its other rating categories. What is your preferred approach to differential rates?</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Ministerial approval for rates twice the lowest category</li> <li>b) Ministerial approval for rates three times the lowest category</li> <li>c) Ministerial approval for rates four times the lowest category</li> <li>d) No Ministerial approval required for any differential rates</li> <li>e) Differential rates to a maximum of four times may be set with no option for</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> (a) <input type="checkbox"/> (b) <input type="checkbox"/> (c) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (d) <input type="checkbox"/> (e) <input type="checkbox"/> (f)	<p>If the local government applies the rules of equity, transparency and fairness then Ministerial approval should not be required.</p>

Rates, fees and Charges	Response	Comments
Ministerial approval f) Other (please specify)		
To what extent do you support the following statements?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“All land should be subject to rates.”</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>The properties that are currently rate exempt still utilise the works and services provided by the local government, therefore they should be contributing to the cost of the provision. This would spread the rate burden across all properties.</p> <p>It should be noted that the properties that receive a rate exemption are usually high end users of the works and services provided by a local government at the expense of other ratepayers. The rate burden should be distributed evenly across all property owners. There should be equity and fairness in rating or exemption of these types of facilities in the same way that there is a whole of state approach to the provision of rebates and deferrals for pensioners.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“The types of land subject to rates should be consistent between local governments.”</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>It is considered appropriate that there is more than one method to value land considering the type of land and its use. The model applied by the Eastern States local governments seems to have merit but requires further investigation</p> <p>The Act should allow for differential rating to enable a differential rate to be applied on the basis of the length of time a property has remained in an undeveloped state.</p>

Rates, fees and Charges	Response	Comments
vii) Should the following types of land be subject to rates?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land owned by the Crown that is used or held for a public purpose</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	Land that is held by the Crown for a non-public purpose should be rated, as the current situation is that all land owned by the Crown is rate exempt.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land used or held exclusively for churches (religious bodies)</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	There has been an increase in the number of properties being purchased in Commercial/Industrial areas and being used for a place of public worship. Quite often there are other incidental activities being carried out on the property that are not related to public worship and question whether the dominant purpose and use of the land is for worship.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land used or held exclusively for schools</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	Schools are providing a service that benefits the entire community.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land used exclusively for charitable purposes</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	<p>Rates should not be applied where land is used exclusively for charitable purposes. If any other uses are undertaken then rates should apply, especially commercial uses.</p> <p>The Act contains provisions to exempt properties from rates where they meet certain charitable criteria. These provisions were not altered when the Act was updated in 1995 and they had been in place for many years prior to that. These provisions have always been difficult to interpret and apply consistently. In recent years, they have become unworkable on a practical basis.</p> <p>Previously, charitable exemptions were claimed for and provided to not-for-profit agencies providing very basic housing at a subsidised rent to needy families</p>

Rates, fees and Charges	Response	Comments
		and individuals. This recognised that the not-for-profit owners were providing housing at a financial cost to themselves. More recently, these existing properties have been redeveloped and additional properties purchased to provide a completely new form of facility, the retirement village with independent living units. New property developments and a more focussed businesslike approach by not-for-profit agencies have targeted the potential provided by the very loosely worded charitable exemption provisions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land vested in trustees for agriculture or horticultural show purposes</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	Yes, if they rent out the premises to a third party.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land owned by Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited (CBH)</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	This is a Commercial operation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land used primarily as a place of residence (no matter who owns the land)</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	A place of residence should be rated as the residents utilise the services provided by the local government and therefore should contribute to the cost.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land used for mining exploration or prospecting</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	Commercial operation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aged care facilities</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	<p>The actual nursing home, where essential care is provided to the elderly residents however the independent living units that co-located on the same properties should be rated and depends on the use.</p> <p>All Independent Living Units should be rated. The exemption should only apply to the Nursing Home and Aged Care Hostel portion of the property which is</p>

Rates, fees and Charges	Response	Comments
		<p>governed by the Commonwealth Aged Care Act 1997. Examples of this are the RAFA Villages where they have a Nursing Home on the property as well as 200-300 Independent Living Units.</p> <p>Local governments should have the ability to request the Minister's approval to grant a rate exemption for the Nursing Home portion of a property and rate the independent living units regardless if the owner/s of the property are a charitable organisation or not.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child care facilities</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	Commercial operation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sporting clubs and Surf Lifesaving clubs</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	Providing a community service but depends on use and if commercial should be rated.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land used for the pursuit of the Arts</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
viii) Which of the following charges should be levied on properties exempt from rates?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Waste charges</li> <li>b) A service charge to cover basic services and maintenance</li> <li>c) Both</li> <li>d) Neither</li> <li>e) Other (please specify)</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> (a) <input type="checkbox"/> (b) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (c) <input type="checkbox"/> (d) <input type="checkbox"/> (e)	<p>The residents of these properties still use the works and services provided by local governments and therefore should contribute to the cost.</p> <p>Direct costs and therefore a choice to use the service.</p>
Should a concession on rates be granted in any of the following scenarios?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The land is owned by a person who currently receives a pensioner or health related</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	The current pensioner/seniors concession provided by the State Government should continue. The cost



Rates, fees and Charges	Response	Comments
concession	<input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	of this concession should not be passed onto local governments.  Government should provide a rebate that is not link to rates.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The land is owned or used by a not-for-profit organisation</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	All land should be rated to spread the rate burden across all land owners but organisations that are purely not-for-profit and provide a community service should be provided a concession.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The land is owned or used by an entity that provides assistance or encouragement for arts or cultural development</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	All land should be rated to spread the rate burden across all land owners but organisations that seek assistance or encouragement for arts or cultural development should be provided a concession.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The land is owned or used by a sporting or recreation body and is available for use by the general community without charge or below cost</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community service organisations that are not-for-profit, for the benefit of the general public and provide community services without charge or below cost</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	Usually grant funded and have included outgoings in the grants.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The payment of rates or charges will cause hardship to the land owner</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	Not fair and equitable to all ratepayers.  A clear and unambiguous definition of hardship will need to be determined.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The concession will encourage the economic development of all or part of the local government district</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	This will need further investigation. This concept has merit as it will encourage economic growth providing employment in the local community.  Council could decide the concession.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The concession will encourage land that is of cultural, environmental, historic, heritage or scientific significance to the local government</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	This needs to be reworded from encouraged to 'has to be preserved' as the local government could be providing a concession over a number of years and the land still undeveloped. This concession has

Rates, fees and Charges	Response	Comments
area to be preserved, restored or maintained		merit, however there needs to be further work in this area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land that is subject to a mining tenement</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	Commercial operation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land that is determined by the Minister to be subject to a concession</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	If the Act defines the concessions then this clause is not required.
ix) Should any other scenarios be subject to rates concessions?	There are no other scenarios subject to rates that require a concession.	
Which of the following charges should be levied on that part of the land that receives a rates concession?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Waste charges</li> <li>b) A service charge to cover basic services and maintenance</li> <li>c) Both</li> <li>d) Neither</li> <li>e) Other (please specify)</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> (a) <input type="checkbox"/> (b) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (c) <input type="checkbox"/> (d) <input type="checkbox"/> (e)	The residents of these properties still use the works and services provided by local governments and therefore should contribute to the cost.
To what extent do you support the following statements?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Rate exemptions for the commercial (non-charitable) business activities of charitable organisations should be removed.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	All commercial operations should be treated the same regardless of who owns them.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Certain categories of ratepayers, for example Independent Living Units, should only be exempt from rates where they qualify under the Commonwealth <i>Aged Care Act</i></li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive	To qualify under the Commonwealth Aged Care Act 1997 the independent living units would be part of an Aged Care Facility. This would mean that all other independent living units in Retirement Villages should be rated.

Rates, fees and Charges	Response	Comments
1997.”	<input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Land used as a residence should not be regarded as charitable.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	
x) To what extent do you support this statements?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local governments should be able to impose fixed charges or levies for particular services, facilities or activities.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	Fixed charges can result in under recovery of costs; however a minimum use fee can assist a local government in eliminating cost blow outs.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local governments should be able to vary fees and charges at any time without advertising the change.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>Supportive of need to advertise/publish change – aligned to budget adoption or changes outside of budget due to circumstances, with community then informed of reasoning.</p> <p>The process for establishing fees and charges and making minor amendments after the budget is adopted, other than statutory charges is inefficient and costly. Especially when a local government is required to capture minor fees and charges such as photocopy charges. Without capturing fees in the Fees and Charges schedule, a local government has no ability to levy a charge for a particular service. Additionally some fees remain unchanged from one budget to another and do not necessarily provide for a cost recovery or profit.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local governments should have the autonomy to set fees and charges for all</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive	Supportive of Local Governments having autonomy to set fees and charges.

Rates, fees and Charges	Response	Comments
services they provide.”	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	Fees and Charges for services are a significant source of income for a local government and at the very least should be set to recover the costs of the service or where the service provides a significant community need be subsidised by the local government taking into consideration the need of the local community.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Services that are consistent across local governments should have the same fees or charges.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	Local governments should have the autonomy to set fees and charges they determine are necessary and should be able to justify any difference if required.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Local governments should not set a fee or charge higher than the cost of delivering that service.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>Acknowledging the Fees and Charges setting process, a local government has no input in relation to Fees and Charges set by the State Government. This should be amended to allow for consultation with the sector to ensure that statutory fees are set with full cost recovery in mind. Examples of such fees and charges and those set under the Planning and Development Act and the Council fee in relation to the Emergency Services Levy.</p> <p>It is also noted that further clarity around a local government’s ability to waive fees and charges is also required especially in relation to the current position that a debt must be incurred first before the fee/charge can be waived.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“A fee or charge should not be set lower than the cost of delivering that service.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>Any fees or charges set below the cost of delivering the service may result in unnecessary and inequitable increase in rates.</p> <p>Why be this restrictive? Local governments should be able to decide whether they wish to subsidise certain services.</p>

Rates, fees and Charges	Response	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Fees and charges imposed by local government and fixed under legislation should increase by CPI annually.”</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very unsupportive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsupportive <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive <input type="checkbox"/> Very supportive	<p>All costs increase from year to year and a CPI increase is reasonable and equitable however where costs rise above inflation local governments should have the autonomy to increase fees and charges to recover those costs.</p>
xi) Do you have any additional comments on the topic of rates, fees and charges?		