Sent: Thursday, 21 February 2019 3:34 PM
To: DLGSC Act Review
Subject: Support for the Concept of an Executive Mayor within a revised Local Government Act

As Mayor of the City of Gosnells, I continually deal with community members. This is in keeping with my role as a representative of the community and as a spokesperson of the Council.

In my Mayoral position, the community will raise numerous issues with me and they expect me to respond appropriately. However, under the current system, a Mayor has no power to address the desires of the community without seeking the support and approval of the Council. This creates great difficulty if the Council is reticent to support the Mayor for any reason.

I believe this is a major flaw within the existing legislation. Consequently I would urge the Department to consider providing greater powers to the Mayor as one of the changes to the Local Government Act. These powers would enable the Mayor to respond directly to community initiatives or suggestions which the Mayor considers best reflects the needs of the community.

I acknowledge that these powers would need to be balanced carefully with the powers of Council. However, there are many precedents throughout the world for the arrangement I am promoting. In particular, the American system supports Executive Mayors by providing them with a range of powers.

I look forward to your positive response to this very important initiative which will improve a local government's ability to respond to community needs.

Regards,

Glenn Dewhurst
Mayor