

From: [REDACTED]
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Hon David Templeman
Minister for Local Government

Submission to Transforming Local Government Inquiry

Dear Mr Templeman

Please accept the following points in addition to the survey you provided.

Alignment

- Where ever possible Local Government law should align with State and Commonwealth law, particularly in regard to elections. Consistency is an advantage and the current complexity/difference encourages a dismissive opinion of Local Government.

Voting

- Compulsory voting to increase involvement and representativeness of Local Government.
- Align vote marking, informality rules, vote counting etc. with State election law.
- Immediately there are more than two candidates the possibility exists of election without a majority of votes under the current primitive first past the post method. This is unacceptable in democracy. Therefore determination of the result should use preferential system as in State Legislative Assembly elections.
- Where an election is to fill multiple vacancies, the proportional system for the Australian Senate should apply. This to include Commonwealth reforms to the ticket vote system.

Terms

- Four year terms and no split half election cycle. Current law decreases importance of Local Government elections which is counter-productive.

Enrolments

- Where Wards exist, the same ratio should apply between Councillors and electors in every ward. A law to guarantee an equal level of representation to each elector. The WA Electoral Commission to be involved in the drawing of Ward boundaries to ensure equity and fairness.

Eligibility

- Payment of rates adds complexity to rules about eligibility to vote, hold office etc. Ideally, eligibility should be aligned with State electoral law, i.e. individual residents. The concept of property entitlement was discarded for State elections a long time ago. It is not unreasonable to demand property owners are also residents. Political power in absentia is not right.

Gifts/donations

- The alternative options set out in the survey seemed to me the most promising pathway.

Yours sincerely

Graham Hawkes

