

I have completed several of the surveys at <https://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/localgovernment/strengthening/Pages/LG-Act-Review.aspx> - mainly, I think, being "smart" & "inclusive" - but, without copies of what I've submitted, have now given up.

I understand that the format of largely preselected options and preferences - after repeatedly asking for my details - must be time saving for those collating responses, but as I have found it immensely frustrating, I hope that the instead the collator will use the following points.

1. Local Govt Council "consultation" for ratepayers has become a bad joke, and I can only see this as another example. We are asked over and over again for our opinions . We supply opinions that are well researched and reasoned - only to have them duly "noted" (unless they happen to echo those preferred by the administration). Unless consultation is meaningful, it becomes meaningless.
2. "Interventions" asks me for my opinions about this: "The Act should enable an external person to be appointed to work with a local government's administration to improve governance and resolve problems." It does NOT ask me how that person should act in different circumstances - ie it assumes that the LG staff is dealing with a problem, rather than creating one. It does not ask what should be done if inadequately informed staff have been making poorly informed decisions.
3. I have major problems with this statement "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." While it is (I hope) aimed at people leaking information, it clearly implies that whistle blowers will be prosecuted. Therefore I was invited to agree with the statement's overt intent, while being utterly opposed to what I see as the actual one.
4. When asked unwanted questions at LGA meetings, staff invariably quote chunks of associated, if irrelevant, policy. This is most evident when they are asked to provide a "yes/no" answer.
5. Annual Electors' Meetings must remain compulsory. There will be years when few people front up - creating a "meet your mayor & CEO" space for those who do, and then years when people express their satisfaction or otherwise. This is how democracy works.
6. Education and training of new Elected Members (and even more so of inexperienced mayors) as well as ongoing training should be mandatory. However it should **never** be provided "in-house", as that would allow predetermined preferences to be absorbed. While I believe my husband to have been an effective councillor (for the short time his health permitted) mandatory external training (with time paid as per sitting rates) should have happened.

Thank you for reading my submission.

Helen Leeder

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