

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [DLGSC Act Review](#)  
**Subject:** Review of Local Government Act Submission  
**Date:** Thursday, 21 March 2019 9:56:36 AM  
**Attachments:** [119032112563200293.png](#)  
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Hello

Please find my submission to the Review of the Local Government Act, below.

- Removal of compulsory annual electors' meetings  
This is a most concerning move away from the democratic right of electors to pass motions and invert the power situation, to a degree, that exists in many councils, where some councillors have vested interests that do not support community interests. Why choose to make it more difficult for electors to participate in a democracy? Please retain the current requirement of 100 signatures to hold a special electors' meeting.
- Compulsory voting for council elections  
There is no data to suggest that compulsory voting leads to greater community participation in democracy at any level of government so the recommendation to make local government voting compulsory raises questions. Making voting compulsory would open the floodgates for greater political party campaign support than already exists. That political parties spend money to elect their candidates, whose interests are political and not community-based, is already an enormous problem for communities. Please do not make it any easier for political parties to gain a foothold in what should be a community level of government, quite distinct from the state and federal levels.
- Leave of absence when contesting state or federal elections  
Mayors and councillors standing for state or federal elections cannot concentrate fully on the needs of their community; therefore, a leave of absence should be given – and taken. A mayor's or councillor's political affiliations should be transparent, not just at the time of state or federal elections but when a candidate is standing for election at the local level of government.
- Transfer of employee entitlements between state and local government  
This is a most disturbing recommendation. Local government is and should remain distinct from state and federal government. Employees transferring from one commercial company to another cannot transfer entitlements. Teachers transferring from one system of education (government, Independent or Catholic) to another system cannot transfer entitlements. Transfer of entitlements would encourage local government employees to transfer to state or federal government, leading to disruption and instability at the local government level.

Whilst I welcome this review, I have set out just some issues of concern around it. I hope that those involved in this review recognise that local government should be just that: government at the local – community – level and that nothing should be encouraged that would allow greater

influence of political parties on local issues or the blurring or lines between local and other levels of government.

Kind regards

Patricia (Kershaw)

Resident and ratepayer of the City of Subiaco

**Patricia Kershaw**

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]



**I acknowledge that this land that I live and work on is Whadjuk country and that the Whadjuk Noongar people are the traditional owners and custodians, who have a rich social, spiritual and historical connection to this country, which is as strong today, as it was in the past.**

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