

12 March 2018

Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries
Gordon Stephenson House
GPO Box R1250
PERTH, WA 6844

Dear Sir/Madam,

Local Government Act Review Phase 1: Consultation Paper– Committee for Perth Submission

The Committee for Perth is an influential, member based organisation driven by Perth's business and community leaders. As an advocate for a brighter, more liveable future for Perth and Peel, the Committee promotes and enables change that will improve the cultural diversity, economic prosperity, sustainability and world class amenity of Perth.

This submission has been prepared by the Committee for Perth and is informed by our long-term advocacy agenda on Local Government Reform, including past submissions and evidence-based research, available from <https://www.committeeforperth.com.au/advocacy/local-government-reform>.

Overall, the Committee supports the reform of the *Local Government Act 1995*. Reforming the system to reduce red tape, increase accountability and improve transparency are critical to ensuring the successful operation of Local Governments that create liveable and vibrant communities.

Should you require additional information or clarification on the Committee's submission, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Lisa Kazalac
Manager, Research & Policy

Comments – Local Government Act 1995 Review

The comments below are in response to direct questions asked by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries in the Phase 1: Consultation Paper.

2. Training

Local Government elected members require a detailed understanding of Western Australia's planning system, which includes knowledge of their local government area and its role in the wider metropolitan and state wide planning strategies and policies.

10) Should elected training be mandatory? Why or why not?

In order to ensure decision-making creates the best outcomes for Western Australian communities, the Committee supports the introduction of mandatory training for councillors in Western Australia. Well-informed councillors will have a greater understanding of their role and the impact that decisions can have in the long-term.

12) Should prior learning or service be recognised in place of completing training for elected members? If yes, how would this work?

There are a number of government and private roles throughout Western Australia and Perth and Peel that require a detailed understanding of the planning system. The Committee supports the recognition of prior learning and service as a way to reduce the number of elected councillors who require training. This could include those who have completed tertiary study in a relevant field such as urban and regional planning, or those who have worked in roles such as developers, policymakers, private planning and urban design consultancies.

8. Access to information

The Committee supports reforms to increase transparency in order to ensure communities are engaged appropriately and in a cost effective and accessible manner. Ensuring that the *Local Government Act 1995* accounts for increased capability of technology to deliver services, such as the provision of information for public knowledge is an essential step in Local Government reform.

96) Which general option do you prefer for making local public notices available? Why?

The Committee supports the use of electronic notices for local notice requirements, which should be posted on the appropriate local government website (option 7). This would ensure that local residents can remain up to date on issues affecting their area through access to one consolidated location. This will also ensure that the local government keeps a historic record of local notice requirements. In addition, each public notice section on a local government's website should contain a subscription option so that residents may be alerted to local notices, as they arise.

97) Which general option do you prefer for State-wide public notices? Why?

The Committee supports the use of an electronic notice published on a centralised website (option 7). As more services are transformed through the use of technology, Western Australians must grow accustomed to accessing information online in order to reduce costs associated with print publishing and advertisement. The centralised website should have a

subscription service to ensure that those concerned may be alerted to state-wide notices as they arise.

100) Using the following table, advise how you think information should be made available:

Provision	Documents	In person only	Website only	Both	Neither
Section 5.53	Annual Report			✓	
Section 5.82	Gifts (already required to be on the website)			✓	
Section 5.83	Disclosure of travel contributions (already required to be on the website)			✓	
	Minutes of council, committee and elector meetings			✓	
	Future plan for the district			✓	
	Annual Budget			✓	
	Notice papers and agendas of meetings			✓	
	Reports tabled at a council or committee meeting			✓	
	Proposed local laws			✓	
	Gazetted Local laws (and other law that has been adopted by the district)			✓	
	Rates record			✓	