

**From:** Bob Jarvis [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 27 January 2022 2:14 PM  
**To:** Tony Brown; DLGSC Act Review  
**Subject:** Local Government Reform agenda - comments from the Shire of Gnowangerup

**Categories:** Jen

The Shire of Gnowangerup is generally supportive of the views of the WA Local Government Association, but would like to emphasise a couple of key issues which the Shire feels strongly about:

3.1 Recording of Council Meetings: Notwithstanding the comment that level 3 and 4 Councils only have to provide live recordings of meetings, the Shire's concern is that such recordings should capture every conversation in the Chamber to be an accurate recording of the proceedings and the cost of ensuring this accuracy is likely to be expensive, and if Councillors attend remotely for any reason, a further complication to ensure that these calls are also captured is likely for not much benefit to Council or the community and may not stand muster as a record of the Council.

4.3 Preferential Voting this would greatly increase the cost of counting votes either in person or through the Electoral Commission and may result in the loss of experienced long standing councillors. As an aside, The option of requiring voters to use all of their votes has not been canvassed. That is, they must use the number of votes allowed to match the vacancies. Currently a voter does not have to use all of their votes. For example if there are five vacancies the voter has potentially five votes but currently use any number up to five, and may only use one vote.

4.4 The Shire believes the Councillors should elect the Mayor or President and not have an option for popularly elected Mayors and Presidents thus avoiding an individual being elected potentially believing that they have a mandate based on their election material which could be at odds with the rest of Council. Being elected by fellow councillors is more likely to result in a team mentality.

4.5 It is felt that 5 Councillors is too few particularly if you have a large geographic area with more than one town, and it is suggested that in those circumstances the Shire should be able to choose seven if it is seen to provide better representation.

6.6 It is considered to be an unnecessary cost to appoint independent Audit Committee Members who presumably will need to be paid and for rural local governments there will be the additional cost of travel and accommodation expenses.

Kind Regards,

**Bob Jarvis** | Chief Executive Officer  
28 Yougenup Rd, Gnowangerup WA 6335 | Shire of Gnowangerup



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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
W [www.gnowangerup.wa.gov.au](http://www.gnowangerup.wa.gov.au)



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