



24 February 2022

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Director General  
Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries  
GPO Box R250  
Perth, 6844

Dear Ms Chopping

### **Local Government Reform**

The Shire of Peppermint Grove has considered the Department's summary of the proposed reforms at its 21 December meeting. Council is supportive of many of the proposed reforms, however, the Shire would like to draw your attention to the following:

- 1.5 Rapid Response Red Card – the Shire does not currently have a local law for Standing Orders. We have a meeting procedures policy. Does this change mean the Shire would have to adopt a Standing Orders local law?
- 2.6 Standardise Meeting Procedures – as above.
- 3.5 CEO KPI's published – Council does not support publishing the detail of the CEO's performance review. The Shire already includes the CEO's overall performance assessment in the council agenda item on the CEO's review.
- 4.3 Preferential Voting – Council does not support the introduction of preferential voting. It is seen as complicating the voting system and could lead to more informal votes as voters may not complete the ballot paper correctly. There is also the possibility that this change will politicise the nomination process and be used by political parties to form block voting to candidates. First past the post should be retained.
- 4.4 Election of Mayor or President – Council does not support this change. It should be up to each local government to determine the process to elect their Mayor or President.
- 4.5 Limits on the number of Councillors – the Council suggests that the number of councillors for districts with up to 5,000 electors should be set at between 5 to 7 councillors with the decision determined by the local government.
- 6.6 Audit Committees – this change is not supported. It is not clear why there is a need for an independent chair and a majority of non-Councillor representation.
- 6.8 Waste Service Costs on rate notices- this change is not supported. Other service levels, such as leisure centres, libraries, governance etc are not broken down on rate notices, so it is not clear why waste is required to be shown.

Council is also seeking assurances that there will be no changes to the current Act in regards amalgamation provisions that do not allow forced amalgamations (Dadour provisions).

Should you wish to discuss the Shire submission, please contact the CEO, Don Burnett on 0408 931 119.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don Burnett', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Don Burnett  
**Chief Executive Officer**