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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 17 November 2021 7:04 PM  
**To:** DLGSC Act Review  
**Subject:** Local Government Reform needs - November 2021 - Bob Peters

1. I believe a local government should not be allowed to have reserve funds or investments in excess of what they reasonably need to fund extraordinary needs. They have an excellent and stable revenue stream from rates and grants that should meet their operating and asset management needs. Arguably major capital needs should be funded from loans as the benefits can then be funded from future ratepayers rather than present ratepayers. Local governments such as Melville generated more revenue each year than they needed for many years, resulting in a large cash reserve. They have also retained valuable land which they have leased to the private sector for commercial purposes. I don't think this is Melville's role. Commercial property ownership and management is a role for the private sector, not government.
2. Councillors should be free to speak to the public and press on any policy matter before the Council. A worthy case to look closely at were the practices at Melville during the time that Russell Aubrey was Mayor, and Melville was taking Nick Pazolli to court for speaking on matters that were adjudged to be not permitted.
3. I strongly support initiatives to ensure the Community is strongly engaged on matters such changes to urban plans, and any proposal to dispose of or change the use of local government land - such as public open space and reserves. Any changes in land status must also be approved by Council, and not be delegated to Council officers.

Bob Peters  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 14 December 2021 7:38 AM  
**To:** DLGSC Act Review  
**Subject:** Local Government Reform needs - December 2021 - Bob Peters

I noted in a summary of the Government's proposed reforms a mention of improving public consultation and removing red tape. We need to be careful in this regard.

I have for the past 10 years been managing on behalf of the community an attack by Council officers at Melville on a small reserve (Baden Powell Reserve in Ardross). The Council officers want to excise some of it to build a road to service high rise developments on Canning Highway. To date their many attempts have failed due to strong local resistance and Council support when it has come to a vote. But the Council officers keep trying and are clearly waiting for that window of opportunity to get their way. This is unlikely to happen under the present Council – if the matter comes to a vote. We are however very concerned that changes to the Act may take the Council out of the decision making loop. We are also very worried that a future Council may support the Council officers – and then the land (Public Open Space) would be lost forever. We would like to see the Act mandate processes that make the sale or change of use of Public Open Space a major community decision – perhaps even a plebiscite decision.

My point is that making it easier for Council officers to do certain things can have serious and unforeseen long term community impacts.

Bob Peters  
[REDACTED]