

Mrs Emily Wallis
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22ND February 2022

Department of Local Government Sport and Communities
140 William Street
Perth WA 6000

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to make the following comments to the review of the Local Government Act:-

Elections:

I support that putting number 1 next to candidate of choice and perhaps a 2 next to the second choice, the only purpose being should the first choice become ill or stand down for any reason then their 2nd preference should be enacted (this saves costs for a new election)

Ticks and crosses are too confusing and should not be used. I do not support preferential voting system. This has now been abolished in State Elections and it confuses electors. The individual with the highest No 1 vote should be the elected person. 2nd choice should only be enacted should something untoward happen to the first choice.

Citizens should also be able to attend library or Local Council to vote providing their identification with photo ID and the ballots kept in a locked and safe box until the day of counting the ballots.

Role of Councillors:

I believe a Councillor must not be a real estate agent or property developer or large scale builder or be a shareholder of construction companies or at least, the interest declared. Such a connection poses a conflict of interest particularly with high rise developments that is often not in the best interests of the community.

Councillors must not have any criminal convictions.

Community Engagement and Governance

Should a dispute arise within Council there needs to be an independent body outside of Council to adjudicate and consider the matter. I believe an Ombudsman would be a suitable independent option in this regard.

Persons presenting petitions must not be ignored or overridden as usually citizens are concerned about a particular issue and have taken the time to voice their concern. Their petition must be considered in reports and views.

Stronger local democracy and community engagement

Council must not discriminate against minority groups or people with a differing point of view.

Public facilities must be available for hire for talks, seminars, functions without any discrimination. The Council should not have a role in deciding what people should or should not hear or what age they should be to hire a facility. Some councils are preventing 18th or 21st birthday parties. Not all people are irresponsible and an appropriate bond should be instigated in these circumstances. These functions are better off in an appropriate facility rather than in a back yard where noise, parking etc can be an issue.

Waste Management

I would like to see better waste management with very minimal waste going to land fill. Initiatives to dismantle goods and re-use components is a good start. This could employ people who are out of work or who are disabled. This will help them feel they are actively contributing to society and it keeps them active and occupied.

A company in Japan invented a machine that reverse engineered plastics back to oil. Councils should consider this technology. <https://interestingengineering.com/japanese-invention-converts-plastic-into-oil>

A furnace should be erected in each council to better of dispose of waste that might go to landfill. Singapore has adopted this method of waste control and it is proving to be very successful. Some items just cannot be re-used or repurposed so this incineration is a good option plus the energy can be used in power stations etc instead of digging up coal.

<https://www.scoopwhoop.com/singapore-trash-island/>

Thank you for taking the time to consider my input.

Kind regards



Mrs Emily Wallis