

Adaptable Councils

Key Issues Raised

- Greater collaboration between councils to improve service delivery and reduce costs (eg: through shared service arrangements).
- It can be difficult for smaller councils to fund the same level of administrative support services that are available to larger councils.
- Councils should place a greater focus on local needs and issues to deliver services that directly benefit local communities.
- By-laws, that regulate the same issues across councils (eg: public places), vary greatly. This causes confusion for people operating businesses or living and working across multiple municipalities.



Proposed Reform Directions

- Provide the flexibility for councils to collaborate and work across municipal boundaries to deliver outcomes for their communities.
- Remove any legal and administrative barriers to collaboration across councils (eg: the extent to which delegations can be exercised).
- Provide the power for two or more councils to be serviced by one administrative organisation (eg: Latrobe and Kentish Councils have adopted this approach in practice).
- Introduce a power for a 'Regional Council' to be established that incorporates a number of individual local councils. A Regional Council could be established through a Local Government Board review (the current mechanism for structural change), or as a result of the voluntary decision of a minimum of two councils to collaborate in such a manner. (Refer to the Regional Council Fact Sheet for more information).
- Create model by-laws for common issues, with streamlined administrative processes, to encourage State-wide consistency and reduce the administrative burden on councils.