

Local Government Legislation Review
via email lgreview@dpac.tas.gov.au

To whom it may concern,

This submission is made on behalf of the Tasmanian Community Newspaper Alliance, and relates to Part C of the Reform Directions Paper which deals with how Councils connect with their communities, particularly in relation to compulsory reporting and public notification requirements.

The Tasmanian Community Newspaper Alliance represents twelve newspapers with a collective readership of more than 110,000 people each month, which is more than the average week-day readership of Tasmania's three daily newspapers combined.

We wish to support the notion that the Local Government Act be modernised by reflecting the important role that community newspapers play in communicating with their local community.

It is our view that the current numerous sections (below) of the Act which requires Councils to advertise in a "daily" newspaper is an anachronism which discriminates against community newspapers and hinders Councils' communication with ratepayers, which needs to be removed.

Such advertisements in daily newspapers are often not noticed by their target audience (as they are generally in the less well read "Public Notices" section), and cost constraints generally preclude Councils from also advertising in their local community newspaper, where the advertisement is much more likely to be relevant, and read.

We submit that by removing the word "daily" from the Act as indicated, local Councils and ratepayers would benefit from the choice of advertising in either a daily newspaper, or in a local weekly, bi-monthly or monthly community newspaper, as appropriate.

The relevant sections of the Act where we recommend the removal of "daily" include, but are not necessarily limited to:

- S31(1)(a)
- S60A(2)(a)
- S61(3)
- S72(2)(d)
- s72B(3)(b)

- S101(1)(b)
 - S105A(2)(b)
 - S109C(1)
 - S118(a)
 - S137(5)
 - S139A(3)
 - S157(2)(a)
 - S178(4)(a)
 - S189(2)
 - S195(4)
 - S214C(3)
 - S275(3)
 - S304(2)
 - S307(4)(b)
- We also recommend consideration be given to amending S72B(2) to remove both “daily” and “or other prescribed newspaper.”
- Finally, we recommend that S269(1) also be amended to allow the Electoral Commissioner to advertise notice of an election otherwise than in a daily newspaper.

In our view, these changes would improve the way that Councils communicate with their residents, allowing for it be done in a more efficient, fairer and importantly more effective manner.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to have input and please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information.

Yours Sincerely,



Brad Stansfield, Convener, Tasmanian Community Newspaper Alliance