

Response to Proposed Changes to Local Government Legislation Reforms.

Dorset Council has prepared a submission. I have a fundamental disagreement over the position taken by Dorset Council on some of those responses especially in relation to consultation, management, the role of the General Manager, oversight of councils and accountability. My differing views are numbered in red and are not those of Dorset Council as submitted by Mayor Greg Howard.

I agree with 1-6.

7. I support 7A only

8 -9 support

10. I accept that there may be problems associated with 2months of caretaker role. However it is clear to me that decisions made by council during the election period in 2018 enhanced the electoral image of the mayor in particular. The mayor was in the position of making major announcements in relation to fees and charges and funding during the election period.

11-12 support

13 In smaller rural based communities there is a risk in relation to excluding those who are financially disadvantaged, but I believe a fee will stop the plethora of candidates who are not necessarily serious about the role would be excluded.

14-16 support

17. The idea of a community engagement strategy is an excellent one. As an aspirational policy that aims to establish greater community engagement in decision making this is to be welcomed. Cynicism and apathy in communities is rife and needs to be addressed in positive ways.

18-19 support

20. I agree. Councils whether they be run like private enterprise or not, should be informed by good governance principles for functioning councils. Good governance does not restrict.

21&22

23. Good....but whats the aim? (to encourage professional development?)

24-26. Well overdue. Minimum standards of behaviour re Tasmanian Public Service Act will improve standards of behaviour and professional standards are welcome. There is an assumption that councils and councillors are the best monitors of General Managers. This is not the case if there is an accepted culture of disrespect.

25 Recruitment and consistent approach to contracts welcome.

28&29

30. I don't agree with Dorset's position of bureaucratic interference

33. Support this. Low uptake of recordings because it is not well publicised.

34. Necessary

36-42. I support the strengthening of the role Director of Local Government and Monitor/ Advisor re: review of operations. At times scrutiny is necessary and welcome. Currently the Director has limited powers to ensure transparency and best practice. The deliberations by the various code of conduct panels and their recommendations have been thorough as well as fair and practical in judgements.

43-47 all ok

Councillor Edwina Powell

Dorset Council