



14 August 2019

Local Government Legislation Review GPO Box 123
HOBART TAS 7001

Via email: lgreview@dpac.tas.gov.au

To whom it may concern,

RE: LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION REVIEW

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Government's reforms directions paper, relating to your review of Tasmania's Local Government legislative framework.

The King Island Courier (published weekly) continues the proud history of newspapers on King Island since 1903.

Our feedback primarily relates to Part C of the Reform Directions Paper; how Councils connect with their communities, particularly in relation to compulsory reporting and public notification requirements.

Our view is the numerous requirements under Local Government Act 1993 (the Act) for public notices to be published in daily newspapers is outdated, out of step with many local government policies, and an obstruction to the effective communication by Councils to their local communities.

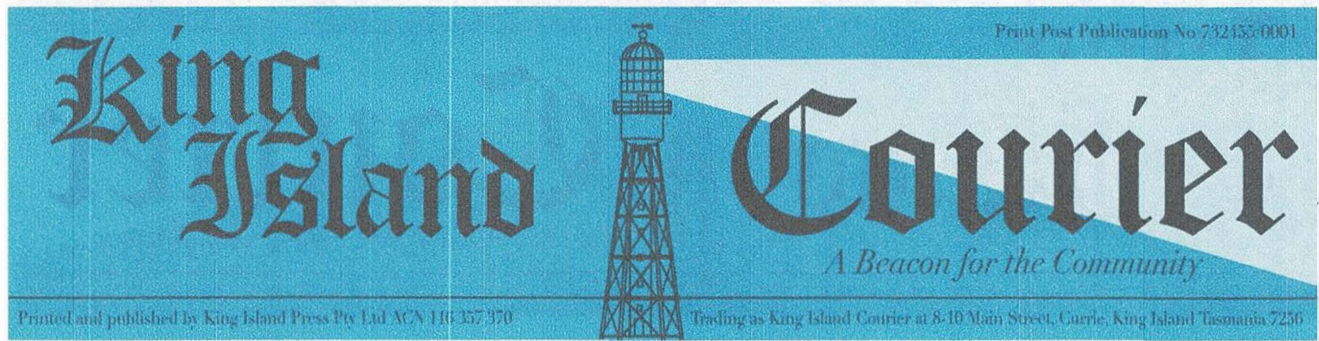
The King Island Courier is more widely read in the King Island community than daily newspapers.

Councils have limited advertising budgets and as a result of the current legislative requirement, are often unable to justify also advertising locally after fulfilling their legislative requirements to advertise in a daily newspaper. This is despite the King Island Courier advertising rates being significantly lower than daily newspapers.

It is important for Councils to advertise in newspapers, as they are, an important communication tool (both hardcopy and electronically) and will remain an important Newspaper of Record for historical purposes.

We strongly support the removal of references to 'daily' when referring to newspapers in the following sections of the Act:

- 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)



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Furthermore we strongly support additional changes to the below sections of the Act:

- S72B(2) - remove 'daily' and 'or other prescribed newspaper'
- S269(1) - amend to 'no less than two months prior to closing day' the electoral commissioner is to cause notice of an election to be advertised prominently in a newspaper circulating in the relevant municipal area.

Making the above changes would provide Councils with additional flexibility to ensure their residents and ratepayers are well informed and kept up to date on the latest information.

The current regulations in this space are in our view, too rigid and do not provide local authorities with the flexibility to notify their local community about important things in the best possible way.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on these changes and please do not hesitate to contact me should you require additional detail or wish to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kathleen Hunter', with a long, sweeping tail.

Kathleen Hunter
Editor