

# Representative and Democratic Councils

## Key Issues Raised

- Simplify the voting processes, including ballot papers and candidate numbers.
- Introduce caretaker provisions that prevent councils making major decisions immediately before an election that bind future councils.
- Entitlement to vote should be based on the principle of 'one vote, one value' for each municipal area.
- Introduce compulsory voting. Ensure councils that are truly representative of the local community.
- Review of voting eligibility requirements, including eligibility to enrol on the General Manager's Roll.
- Clarify the voting process for electing mayors and deputy mayors.
- Introduce alternative voting methods that respond to advances in technology and increase voter participation, such as electronic voting.



## Proposed Reform Directions

- Reform eligibility for the General Manager's Roll, as follows:
  - A person must be an Australian citizen to be eligible to vote in local government elections.
  - Individuals who are Australian citizens and own property in a municipal area where they are not a resident, are eligible for enrolment in the Roll.
  - A person is eligible for enrolment as the (sole) nominated representative of a corporation operating from a property in the municipal area, ONLY if they are Australian citizens and are not already enrolled under any other entitlement in that municipal area.
- Reform the voting franchise to reflect 'one person, one vote' principle in any one municipality.
- Align eligibility requirements to nominate as a candidate with State eligibility requirements.

See over for further **Proposed Reform Directions** >

# Representative and Democratic Councils



## Proposed Reform Directions (*continued*)

- Remove the outdated title of 'Alderman'.
- Simplify the electoral process for the position of mayor. Options identified are:
  - Retain the status quo - vote for mayor and councillor concurrently.
  - Popularly elected - a successfully elected mayor will automatically be elected as councillor. Candidates will be able to stand either for mayor or councillor, but not both. Unsuccessful mayoral candidates will not be eligible for election as councillor.
  - Popularly elected - the candidate who is elected first, from the ballot for candidates, would automatically be elected as mayor, removing the necessity of voting twice.
  - Council votes - all candidates stand and are elected as councillors. The mayor is elected 'around the table' by the council.
- Deputy mayors will be voted on by their councils 'around the table', rather than being popularly elected.
- Make alternative voting methods available, such as electronic voting.
- Amend the voting process to require a minimum of 1-5 boxes to be numbered to constitute a formal vote.
- Introduce caretaker provisions to reduce major policy and contractual decisions that may bind an incoming council and to avoid the inappropriate use of council resources during an election.
- Move the administration of the General Manager's Roll to the Tasmanian Electoral Commission.
- Introduce a requirement for potential candidates to complete simple, online-based training packages to be able to nominate as a candidate.
- Introduce a candidate nomination fee (refundable on obtaining a percentage of the vote).
- Require the disclosure of gifts and donations by all local government candidates during the electoral period.