

Local Government Legislation Review Project Team
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Dear Review Project Team

MEANDER VALLEY COUNCIL: REVIEW SUBMISSION

The Meander Valley Council met on 26 February to discuss the Review of Tasmania's Local Government Legislation Framework Discussion Paper. Council offers the following points for inclusion in the review of the legislation framework:

Council Governance and Powers

- What services will Local Government be expected to be involved with into the future?
- Council is concerned about cost shifting to Local Government from the State and Federal Governments. An example of this is the way the Building Act (2016) legislative changes that were implemented in Tasmania.
- A council is to review its code of conduct within 3 months after each ordinary election (Section 28T(7)). Council suggests the removal of this Section as the first three months are probably too early in the electoral term to review this important document.
- Council supports the introduction of compulsory professional development for elected members.

Democracy and Engagement

- We are against compulsory voting in Local Government elections.
- Electoral information to be presented with the "Robson Rotation"
- A council must hold an Annual General Meeting on a date that is not later than 15 December in each year (Section 72B (1)(a)). Council supports a change to make the requirement to hold an AGM optional rather than compulsory.

Council Revenue and Expenditure

- Council collects the State Fire Levy and provides these funds to the State Government. This is covered by a number of Sections including 93A. Council suggests a name change to from Fire Levy to Emergency Services levy to reflect the services covered by the revenue.
- The Local Government (General) Regulations 2015 includes the requirement for Councils to invite tenders for any contract at or above \$250,000 (Section 23). Council suggests increasing prescribed amount for going to tender be greater than \$500,000.
- Change from wording that requires for Council to advertise in "in a daily newspaper circulating in the municipal area" to simply be a requirement for Council "advertise" and therefore Council would determine the appropriate advertising mechanism to advertise. This is relevant for the following Sections in the LGA:
 - 60A: Public meetings and submissions
 - 61: Appointment of general manager
 - 72: Annual report
 - 72B: Annual General Meeting
 - 101: Intention to make separate rate or charge
 - 103: Petitions
 - 118: Notification of making rates
 - 139A: Register of money
 - 157: Notice of proposed by-law
 - 178: Sale, exchange and disposal of public land
 - 189: Closure of local highways
 - 195: Notice of impounding

Regards



Martin Gill
General Manager