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From: Gerald Monson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 1 October 2019 8:51 AM
To: Local Government Legislation Review (DPaC)
Subject: Submission - Review of Tasmania's Local Government Legislation Framework - Reform Directions Paper Phase 2

On behalf of the Latrobe and Kentish Councils, I thank you for the opportunity to make a submission in respect of the review of Tasmania's Local Government Legislation Framework.

I advise that the Latrobe Council had a joint workshop with Kentish Council on Monday 16th September 2019, and went through each of the 51 issues identified as part of the Reform process.

There was general agreement to support the majority of the 51 Reform items, noting that further details on the proposals will be required prior to Council making a formal commitment on the suggested Reforms.

There were several issues that a consensus could not be achieved and it was agreed that these be left to individual Councillors to decide if they wish to make a submission through the on-line survey option.

The issues left for Councillors individual response were:

5. Reform eligibility for the General Manager's Roll – there was disagreement on whether a person must be an Australian citizen to be eligible to vote in Local Government elections.
7. Simplify the election process for the positions of Mayor and Deputy Mayor.
13. Introduce a candidate nomination fee.
19. Remove requirements for public meetings and elector polls.
48. Introduce the option to create Regional Councils.

There were also three issues that the two Councils wished to make further comment on. These were:

23. Require Councils to publicly report the core capability training that each elected member has completed annually.

There was concern that there was no recognition of prior learning and previous experience not proposed to be taken into account. There was also acknowledgement that there is a diverse range of training and life experiences that provides benefit for Councillors in their role.

32. Clarify significant business activities – the Councils agreed that a submission should be made on this issue highlighting the Queensland model as a potential source of information.

Council agrees there is a need to better define "significant business activities" so that the commercial operations of Councils are transparently reported.

Council agrees with other state jurisdictions that the free or low cost camping facilities that local government operates are not a significant business activity. For example, in Queensland a “significant business activity is an expenditure of at least \$9.3m in the previous financial year (local government amendment regulation 2019, subordinate legislation no. 39, thresholds for significant business activities – Act, section 43 (b))”.

The Councils agreed that the Queensland model should be used a potential source of information in defining what is a “significant business activity”.

33. Require electronic recording of Council meetings to be made publicly available

While Council agreed to this initiative, there was concern regarding the potential cost to Councils and there should be an opt out provision if this Reform issue is to be progressed.

The Councils look forward to continued involvement in the process as new legislation is developed for the Local Government Legislation Framework.

Yours sincerely,

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