

7 November 2025

The Hon. Kerry Vincent MLC
Minister of Local Government
By email only: lg.consultation@dpac.tas.gov.au

Dear Minister

City of Launceston response to the Discussion Paper - Reforms to Councillor Numbers and Allowances

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission in respect of the above.

The City of Launceston supports the proposed reform around Councillor numbers and allowances and additionally, offers the following comments:

1. Quorum management: Should the Government consider any strategies/guidance for council decision making where a quorum cannot be maintained?

If the proposed reform to Councillor numbers and allowances proceeds, City of Launceston will move from 12 Councillors to 9 Councillors. It is likely that there will be instances where a quorum (5 Councillors) will be impacted by Councillor absences and/or conflicts of interest as there are instances of this occurring with 12 Councillors. Opportunities for flexible attendance at Council meetings and provision for decision making in an 'alternative manner' as suggested in the Discussion Paper will be helpful in these circumstances. For this reason, the Council supports strategies/guidance for council decision making where a quorum cannot be maintained, along the lines of the suggestions made in the Discussion Paper.

2. Superannuation: Should the *Local Government Act 1993* be amended to require councils to pay a 12% superannuation equivalent payment from allowances into a Councillor's nominated superannuation fund?

This proposed reform is supported. As suggested in the Discussion Paper, it is not widely understood that Councillors receive a 12% superannuation equivalent payment as part of their allowances. Clarity in legislation would be helpful for transparency and increased understanding. In framing this reform, the Office of Local Government may wish to consider the way this is handled in legislation in New South

Wales. Further information is available at [22-04 Payment of councillor superannuation – Office of Local Government NSW](#).

3. Setting the foundation for future reviews: Should the methodology and ongoing review framework for Councillor allowances and numbers be embedded in legislation to provide certainty and transparency to the sector and community?

This proposed reform is supported as one way that local government can respond in a timely manner to demographic and other relevant changes. It is suggested that the review is timed to occur in the lead up to a general local government election, with a view to any changes being implemented at the time of the election.

Yours sincerely



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Chief Executive Officer