

Enquiries: Office of the CEO
Phone: (03) 6323 9300
Fax : (03) 6323 9349



22 October 2025

Office of Local Government
Department of Premier and Cabinet

By email: lgconsultation@dpac.tas.gov.au

Dear Sir / Madam

Feedback on Reforms to Councillor Numbers and Allowances Discussion Paper

West Tamar Council (**Council**) appreciates the opportunity to provide a submission on the reforms to Councillor Numbers and Allowances discussion paper.

Council provides the following submission which was endorsed at its meeting of 21 October 2025.

Council's submission response to the three key consultation questions below:

1. *Should we consider any strategies/guidance for council decision making where a quorum cannot be maintained?*

Council believe that if a quorum is not able to be met then issues before Council requiring decision should be deferred until a quorum is able to be formed.

This may mean a special meeting if the matter is time critical. Council believes that Councillors are elected with an expectation that they will attend Council meetings and as such quorums should be able to be formed.

Guidance may be required where there is a conflict of interest that requires Councillors to leave the Chamber and this means that a quorum cannot be maintained. This is especially the case when all Councillors are at a meeting but conflicts see a quorum not being able to achieve.

Further some Councillors believed that there should be a delegation to the General Manager/Chief Executive Officer to make a decision if Council cannot form a quorum and the matter is time sensitive. Note this was not something that all Councillors believed was appropriate.

Eden Street, Riverside TAS 7250
PO Box 16, Riverside TAS 7250
e. wtc@wtc.tas.gov.au
p. 03 6323 9300
f. 03 6323 9349
wtc.tas.gov.au



2. *Should it be mandatory for councillors' existing superannuation equivalent payments to be directed into a nominated superannuation fund?*

Councillors in the main were not in favour of this – however Councillors could understand why this may be required.

3. *Should the methodology and ongoing review framework for councillor allowances and numbers be embedded in legislation?*

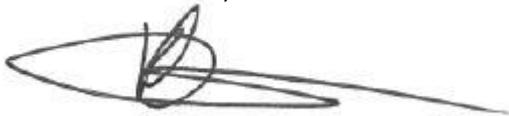
Council believes that the methodology and framework should be reviewed before each Local Government election to ensure that the number of Councillors is appropriate.

Council also makes the following general comments:

- That the security of the sector is important and the ability for councils to attract and retain staff is critical. Some Councillors believe that this reform is fiddling at the edges that sees more disruption to the sector. Council believes that if the State Government wants to amalgamate councils, then it should just get on with it rather than slowly reduce confidence in the sector and its Councillors.
- Further Council sees this proposed reform as an attack on democracy and notes that the reduction of numbers of members in State Parliament has now been reversed and therefore are sceptical that this proposal will not end up being reversed for similar reasons.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please contact me on 6323 9300 or via email at wtc@wtc.tas.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Kristen Desmond
Chief Executive Officer