



6 February 2025

Office of Local Government
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LOCAL GOVERNMENT PRIORITY REFORM PROGRAM 2024-26

During a recent Brighton Council Workshop, elected members reviewed the discussion paper that proposes a number of reforms to support the delivery of the Local Government Priority Reform Program 2024-26.

Brighton Council are broadly supportive of the proposed reforms. However, we would like to offer some comments and feedback from the workshop on this matter, in addition to our previous submission regarding Local Government reform.

1. **Legislating the Good Governance Principles**

Brighton Council are broadly supportive of this reform.

2. **Introducing serious misconduct provisions for Councillors**

Brighton Council are broadly supportive of this reform.

3. **Broadening Performance Improvement Direction provisions**

Brighton Council are broadly supportive of this reform.

4. **Introducing Temporary Advisors for Councils**

Brighton Council are broadly supportive of this reform.

5. **Clarifying Work Health and Safety obligations**

Brighton Council are broadly supportive of this reform.

6. **Mandating council learning and development obligations**

Brighton Council elected members have a diversity of opinions on this reform; including:-

- The quality and accessibility of training material is essential for this system to be effective and complied with. Councillors have experienced difficulties with the existing system.*
- Some councillors believe in the absence of similar requirements for other tiers of government, this requirement is discriminatory.*
- For experienced councillors there should be recognition of prior knowledge and experience.*
- Some councillors believe relevant training prior to being allowed to run / being elected should be mandatory.*

- *The application of relevant learning is noted by some elected members as the key issue, rather than the training itself.*

7. Introducing a contemporary role statement and a Charter for local government

Brighton Council is very supportive of this reform as it will assist to provide clarity of Local Government's role in Tasmania and help to harmonise services across municipal boundaries. However, genuine consultation (and listening) to councils is critical. There is concern this could lead to the transfer of further State responsibilities to councils without requisite funding or resourcing.

Council has noted previously that the Charter should make explicit, that both climate adaptation and mitigation is a core role of local government.

8. Improving the strategic planning and reporting frameworks

Brighton Council are generally supportive of this reform, however, concern regarding expanding the role of Local Government in community wellbeing matters that are traditionally the role of other tiers of government without appropriate funding and/or genuine partnership between tiers of government, is strong.

9. Improving consistency in data collection and reporting methodologies

Brighton Council are strongly supportive of this reform.

10. Enhancing transparency of information in council rates notices

Brighton Council are broadly supportive of this reform.

11. Mandating internal audit for councils.

Brighton Council are broadly supportive of this reform.

Yours sincerely



James Dryburgh
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER