

# COUNCILLOR ROOMS

File No: SF0327  
DG

Your Ref:

The Hon. Kerry Vincent MLC  
Minister for Local Government  
Via E-mail only: [lg.consultation@dpac.tas.gov.au](mailto:lg.consultation@dpac.tas.gov.au)

18/09/2025

Dear Minister

**Subject: Submission in Response to Local Government Reform Consultation**

I write in response to your recent correspondence to the City of Launceston, outlining the reforms proposed for local government in Tasmania.

I have had the privilege of serving the City of Launceston as Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillor for almost 15 years. During this time, I have seen firsthand both the strengths and the challenges of our local government sector. It is from this perspective that I wish to place on record my strong support for the reforms you have put forward. I believe they provide a necessary framework for strengthening governance, improving accountability and ensuring that our communities remain at the heart of decision-making.

Importantly, in the absence of a process of forced amalgamations, these reforms represent a sensible and constructive step in the right direction. I also believe there is merit in continuing to explore opportunities to reduce duplication across councils, ensuring ratepayers' money is used as efficiently and effectively as possible. The balance struck between respecting the independence of local communities and seeking greater efficiencies is, in my view, the right one. Importantly, it is predicated on the assumption that professional learning and the acquisition of skills and competencies for Councillors both pre and during their term of office will be compulsory.

I also wish to state clearly that my position on this matter is not informed by personal considerations. I will not be standing for re-election at the 2026 local government elections and therefore my support is based solely on what I believe is in the best long-term interests of our sector more broadly.

**Do you support the proposed reforms?**

Yes. I strongly support the reforms as a constructive and necessary step to strengthen governance and accountability. In the absence of forced amalgamations, this represents a sensible and pragmatic pathway forward.

**Do you support reforms relating to councillor superannuation?**

Yes. I support the introduction of superannuation reforms for elected members, as it reflects the significant responsibilities of the role and brings local government into line with modern standards.

**Do you support a regular review mechanism for local government?**

Yes. I support a structured and periodic review process, as it provides accountability, ensures reforms remain fit for purpose and allows councils to continuously adapt to changing community needs.

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Having served as an elected representative for nearly 15 years, I can say with confidence that these reforms are welcomed. They represent an important opportunity to reinforce trust in local government and to provide clearer guidance for both elected representatives and the community we serve.

I wish to sincerely thank you for the respectful and considered way in which you are engaging with the sector in your role as Minister. Like former Minister Street, your leadership in progressing reform and your commitment to consultation is both evident and appreciated.

Thank you once again for your correspondence and for the opportunity to contribute to this important discussion.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Gibson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Councillor Danny Gibson

\* Please note my submission is as an individual Councillor and should not be seen as reflective of the views of City of Launceston more broadly.