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22 October 2025

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The Hon. Kerry Vincent MLC  
Minister for Local Government  
Office of Local Government  
Department of Premier and Cabinet

By email: [lgconsultation@dpac.tas.gov.au](mailto:lgconsultation@dpac.tas.gov.au)

Dear Minister

### **Feedback on Consultation Draft Local Government Amendment (Targeted Reform) Bill 2025**

West Tamar Council (**Council**) appreciates the opportunity to provide a submission on the Consultation Draft Local Government Amendment (Targeted Reform) Bill 2025.

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

Council's submission response is specified in the attached table, which provides specific comments in relation to each amended and proposed new clause. Council also makes the following general comments:

- That any proposed local government charter by way of Ministerial Order removes any parliamentary oversight that may be had over the activities of the Minister of the day. Council sees the charter as a mechanism for the State to pressure councils to confirm with its policy agenda, bringing local government into a political forum it is not designed to be a part of. If the Government believes that a Charter is required then it should be imbedded in the *Local Government Act 1993*.
- Council firmly opposes the introduction of mandatory training. It believes that the reforms risks limiting the pool of community members who will be willing to nominate to be a Councillor. Council feels that if mandatory training and professional development is introduced at a local government level, then it should be introduced at all elected representatives at all levels of government.



- Council believes that continuing professional development for Councillors is critical, should be encouraged and publicly reported but should not be mandatory.
- Council holds concerns regarding whether genuine ministerial "consultation" would be conducted with councils noting that there is no clear definition or requirement for genuine engagement. Council feels that such consultation would end up being a symbolic exercise rather than a genuine attempt to listen to councils and take their feedback and day to day experience into consideration.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kristen Desmond', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Kristen Desmond**  
Chief Executive Officer