



CIRCULAR HEAD COUNCIL – CONSULTATION RESPONSE TO TARGETED LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT AMENDMENTS

Reform Priority	Response
<u>Legislating the Good Governance Principles</u>	Supported. The principles of good governance should in any case underpin a council's culture. Including them in legislation provides an additional means of addressing issues early
<u>Introducing Serious Misconduct Provisions for Councillors</u>	Supported. It would be useful to ensure this covers reputational damage as well.
<u>Broadening Performance Improvement Direction provisions</u>	Supported.
<u>Introducing Temporary Advisors</u>	Supported – further clarity around the triggering circumstances required
<u>Clarifying WHS obligations</u>	There must be a reliable escalation process. There also needs to be a better safety net for a GM/CEO who has to manage councillor actions under the WHS Act
<u>Mandating Council/Councillor Learning and Development obligations</u>	Supported in principle, although long-standing experience should be recognised. We acknowledge the demands placed on councillors by a continually evolving regulatory and legislative environment. For consistency this should be provided at a Statewide level which also avoids the risk of local bias intruding into any training.
<u>Introducing a contemporary role statement and a Charter for local government</u>	Supported but important that this is framed as a two-way street with State government which clarifies how State will interact with LG.
<u>Improving the strategic planning and reporting frameworks</u>	Supported in principle. There is some concern about the additional burden on small councils of preparing extra strategic plans. It is widely acknowledged throughout the LG Review work that 'wellbeing' has many broad dimensions; and requiring annual reporting may not result in meaningful outputs. A term plan for a council would help shape progress on high level strategic goals in



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	ways that are meaningful to community and which enable councillors to take ownership of tangible outcomes within a defined timeframe.
<u>Improving consistency in data collection and reporting</u>	Supported, noting that the eventual framework must deliver something more useful than the Consolidated Data Collection exercise.
<u>Making rates notices clearer and transparent</u>	Not supported. Requiring 5 years' data is excessive and unwieldy and we question why the reporting framework outlined immediately above would not fulfil this function.
<u>Mandating internal audit</u>	Supported.