

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

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

20 March 2025

Office of Local Government
Department of Premier and Cabinet

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

Dear Sir / Madam

Priority Reform Program Consultation – Discussion Paper on Targeted Amendments to the *Local Government Act 1993*

West Tamar Council (Council) appreciates the opportunity to provide a submission on the targeted amendments to the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Council provides the following submission which was endorsed at its meeting of 18 March 2025.

On review of the discussion paper, Council notes the majority of the changes suggested would not be of any assistance to most councils in Tasmania and would increase red tape and cost to both local and State government.

Council submits that in order to ensure good governance in councils, and a consistent approach to issues, the Office of Local Government should employ at least four expert advisors in the following areas which would cover the majority of the operations of councils:

- Governance
- Legal
- Planning
- Infrastructure

These advisors would be available for any council to call upon on an 'as needed' basis to provide timely guidance and advice in their area of expertise. This would ensure that all councils are being provided with the same information, support and advice across the board.

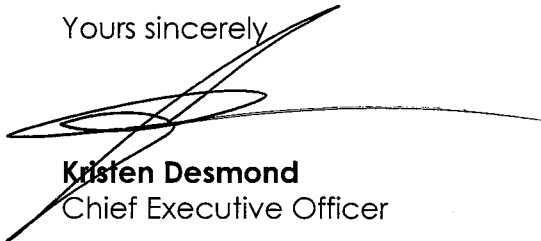
By better resourcing the Office of Local Government in this manner, it would be possible to implement better, consistent, cohesive training to councils by these advisors, even tailored to a regional basis, focussing on issues of importance

specific to the region. Relevant training would avoid the need for a mandatory training program.

In making this advice and training available to councils, it would improve consistency throughout the State and encourage early intervention of issues, eliminating the need to employ temporary advisors to get "the council back on track". This would also encourage self-reporting by councils who identify internal issues in any area. By self-reporting, the relevant advisor could then provide further structured advice, tailored to that specific council.

Council submits that by providing this service from the Office of Local Government, there would be an overall savings and overcome of the difficulties these reforms are attempting to address.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kristen Desmond', written over a horizontal line.

Kristen Desmond
Chief Executive Officer