



28 March 2025

Office of Local Government
Department of Premier & Cabinet
GPO Box 123
HOBART TAS 7001

Email: lg.consultation@dpac.tas.gov.au

Dear Sir,

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTORAL BILL – FEEDBACK

Thanks for the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft framework that will be implemented through a new standalone local government electoral bill and regulations.

Brighton Councillors were consulted, and the majority of councillors provided the following feedback on the first and second sections of the discussion paper:-

- Councillors supported attendance voting, whether it be on a single polling day or during a polling period. However, continuing the distribution of ballot papers by mail while encouraging electors to return ballots by hand to physical issuing places (i.e., a 'hybrid' system) will have a significant impact on staffing and resources. The 2022 election presented many unforeseen challenges for staff and resources at Brighton, severely impacting the day-to-day operations of this Council. If electors are required to return their ballots to physical issuing places instead of posting them back to the TEC, there will be an additional cost to ratepayers due to the need for extra staff to manage this scenario.
- A majority of Councillors supported the continuation of non-citizens being able to vote in local government elections.
- A majority of councillors believe the election of the Deputy Mayor should continue to be undertaken by the people.
- Councillors did not support the removal of the Deputy Mayor in favour of the provision for an acting mayor.

Yours sincerely,

James Dryburgh
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER