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20 August 2024

Hon. Nic Street MP
Minister for Local Government
Box 123
Hobart TAS 7001

By email: lg.consultation@dpac.tas.gov.au

RE: Local Government (General) Regulations and Code of Conduct Order Submission

Dear Minister Street,

West Tamar Council (**Council**) appreciates the opportunity to provide a submission on the proposed draft amendments to the Local Government (General) Regulations and a new Local Government Code of Conduct Order.

Council would like to provide the following feedback for your consideration:

- Council does not support a legislated Code of Conduct that applies to all Councils as proposed.
- Council does not agree with the inclusion of Prohibited Conduct into the Model Code as it feels this is a step too far and this subjects Local Government Councillors to tougher rules than members of State or Federal parliament.
- Council feels that the Model Code of Conduct further restricts Councillors' ability to have and express their personal views publicly.
- Council believes that this is an overreach and something that will further restrict people who will want to stand for Local Government office.
- Council believes that it is the only level of Government where an individual Councillor can have a Code of Conduct complaint made against them by the community and does not believe that this is fair or appropriate.
- Council does not believe that it is appropriate for it to take on additional costs by having to engage independent mediators as part of the dispute resolution process and that it should receive additional funding from the State Government if this is a requirement of the Regulations and/or Ministerial Order.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on these important draft amendments

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Christina Holmdahl', written in a cursive style.

Councillor Christina Holmdahl
Mayor
West Tamar Council