



Tasmanian Government Response to the Future of Local Government Review Final Report Recommendations

Office of Local Government
Department of Premier and Cabinet

Acknowledgement of Aboriginal People and Country

In recognition of the deep history and culture of Tasmania, the Department of Premier and Cabinet acknowledges and pays respect to all Tasmanian Aboriginal people, the past and present custodians of this island. The Department acknowledges and pays respect to Tasmanian Aboriginal Elders, past and present.



Minister's Foreword



The Future of Local Government Review provides a once-in-a-generation opportunity to consider how to shape a flexible, adaptable, and sustainable local government system that can respond to the growing demands and changing needs of our communities in the decades ahead.

Over the last nearly-four years, a huge amount of work has been undertaken by the independent Local Government Board, the Office of Local Government, the Local Government Association of Tasmania, all our Councils – including elected members and staff – and of course the Tasmanian community. This work has culminated in the Board handing down 37 reform recommendations it sees as being the blueprint for local councils being able to deliver the essential services Tasmanians deserve.

I'm pleased to now present the Tasmanian Government's response to these recommendations.

Councils are key to supporting the wellbeing, sustainability, and prosperity of all Tasmanians. That is why, after careful thought and collaboration with the local government sector, we have accepted – either in full, in part, or in principle – 36 of the Review's 37 recommendations.

With the release of our review response, I'm also pleased to release our Local Government Priority Reform Program 2024 – 2026. This program provides a guide to how our spheres of Government will work together over the next two years to implement the key reforms from the review and deliver the best outcomes in the most efficient and effective way.

These two documents create a broad approach, informed by consultation, on the pressing issues facing the sector.

A number of the reforms will require legislative underpinning, and the Government will work closely with the sector to prioritise, develop, and bring in necessary amendments before the Parliament between now and the next local government elections in late 2026.

I am keen to move quickly to implement reforms and aim to release a Discussion Paper for public consultation in next ten weeks. This will enable the finalisation and introduction of a range of amendments into the Parliament by mid-2025.

As part of the Priority Reform Program, the Government has outlined how it will support local councils that wish to explore voluntary amalgamations. We are absolutely committed to working with and supporting interested councils with progressing structural reform where they can prepare and submit robust amalgamation proposals that demonstrate tangible benefits to their respective communities.

I would like to thank the Local Government Board, who I had the pleasure of engaging with as Mayor of Sorell Council during the Review, for their diligence and commitment to undertaking the Review, and for delivering a bold, well-considered package of reforms that will shape the future of local government in Tasmania.

I also wish to acknowledge and thank the immense input and engagement from both the sector and broader Tasmanian community to the Review. All Tasmanian's have a role in the future of local government, and thanks to the broad engagement the recommendations presented in the Final Report represent our community and sector's ideas, hopes and aspirations for this future.

I would finally like to thank my predecessor, Nic Street MP, for his ongoing support for the Review and for his leadership in delivering broader reform of Tasmania's local government sector during his tenure.

This response outlines our plan for how we will work closely with the sector to deliver enduring and meaningful reforms. It is now time to get on with the job of implementing key changes to ensure our councils are in the best position to serve their communities now and into the future.

Hon Kerry Vincent MLC
Minister for Local Government



Background

The Future of Local Government Review formally commenced in January 2022 with the objective of ensuring Tasmania's system of local government is robust, capable, and sustainable for future challenges and opportunities.

An independent Local Government Board was established to consider the optimal future design of the Tasmanian local government sector across both the administrative and representative areas. The Board sought community, sectoral and peak body input over 2022–23, receiving over 6500 submissions across multiple engagements. All submissions are published on the Future of Local Government Review website at www.futurelocal.tas.gov.au.

The Final Report was delivered to the Minister for Local Government in October 2023. It included 37 integrated recommendations covering both structural and non-structural reform. The recommendations largely related to the core objectives of enabling and empowering councils to deliver essential services and respond to the immediate and future challenges facing Tasmania's local communities.





Public Response to the Final Report

Following its delivery, the Government published the Final Report, inviting public feedback.

A total of 105 submissions were received, which included:

- 22 submissions by councils
- 2 submissions by state government agencies or bodies
- 15 submissions by community organisations and groups
- 3 councillors and council staff, and
- 63 community members.

Feedback on the Final Report was generally positive, with emerging themes of council sustainability and financial and asset management, workforce development, local decision-making and community engagement, and improved transparency and accountability of councils in the interests of their communities. Specific local concerns that were revealed included the potential impact of reforms on smaller communities, and responsibility for waste management and environmental stewardship. Submissions indicated broad interest in further exploring council structural reform and shared service arrangements as a way of supporting the sustainability or improvement of service delivery to communities.

Submissions on the Final Report are publicly available on the Office of Local Government, Department of Premier and Cabinet website at www.dpac.tas.gov.au.



Tasmanian Government Response to the Final Report

On the strength of information and advice provided to the Government throughout the Review - including the significant level of sector and community consultation and feedback - the Government has confirmed support – either in full, in part, or in principle – to all but one of the recommendations of the Final Report.

The recommendation that has not been accepted by the Tasmanian Government (Recommendation 8) relates to the Local Government Board developing a business case for council amalgamations where it is supported by a community-initiated elector-poll. The Tasmanian Government has assessed that this recommendation

did not uphold an adequate process for amalgamation proposals to be considered by the Minister for Local Government, so it has not been supported. It is noted that this recommendation was not supported by the Local Government Association of Tasmania as representative body for the sector.

All 36 other recommendations of the Review are supported to some degree by the Tasmanian Government and consideration will be given to how these recommendations can be implemented so that the outcomes are effective and sustainable for communities.

Implementation of the Recommendations of the Review

In response to the Review, the Tasmanian Government has committed to delivering a *Local Government Priority Reform Program 2024–26*.

The Program – which the Government will deliver over the next two years - consolidates the most critical recommendations of the Review. It is also informed by consultation with the sector and other stakeholders to ensure the Government is investing in the right priorities that address the most pressing needs of councils and their communities.

Consideration will be given to implementation of a broader reform program, inclusive of the remaining recommendations of the Review, as second and subsequent phases of work after the 2026 local government elections. Right now, the commitment of the Government is to focus on effective and efficient implementation of the highest priority work.

The *Local Government Priority Reform Program 2024–26* is available on the Office of Local Government, Department of Premier and Cabinet website at www.dpac.tas.gov.au.



	FoLGR Recommendation	Government Response	Priority	Timeframe
1	<p>Define in Tasmania's new Local Government Act the role of local government consistent with the statement below:</p> <p>The role of local government is to support and improve the wellbeing of Tasmanian communities by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. harnessing and building on the unique strengths and capabilities of local communities; 2. providing infrastructure and services that, to be effective, require local approaches; 3. representing and advocating for the specific needs and interests of local communities in regional, state-wide, and national decision-making; and 4. promoting the social, economic, and environmental sustainability of local communities, by mitigating and planning for climate change impacts. 	<p>Support.</p> <p>These provisions will be included in the Act through legislative amendment in 2025.</p> <p>This new role will inform the development of a Charter/ Partnership Agreement with the local government sector (see response to Recommendation 2, below).</p>	High	To be incorporated as part of priority legislative amendments to be brought in before 2026 council elections.

	FoLGR Recommendation	Government Response	Priority	Timeframe
2	<p>The Tasmanian Government – through subordinate legislation – should implement a Local Government Charter to support the new legislated role for local government.</p> <p>The Charter should be developed in close consultation with the sector and clarify and consolidate in a single document councils' core functions, principles, and responsibilities, as well as the obligations of the Tasmanian Government when dealing with the sector as a partner in delivering community services and support.</p>	<p>Support.</p> <p>Once the new role for local government is embedded in legislation, the State Government will work with the local government sector to formalise a new Charter to underpin more effective engagement and collaboration between our spheres of government.</p> <p>Details will be developed with the sector, but it is expected it will provide greater clarity on matters such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how the Tasmanian Government will support the sector deliver on its remit, including a commitment for genuine consultation where the Tasmanian Government makes decisions impacting on the sector, and vice versa. • how the Government will collaborate with the local government sector to support a genuine, co-regulatory approach to councils' regulatory responsibilities; and • the principles and parameters for where and how councils will work together (both with each other and with the State Government) on a range of strategic issues – such as land use and settlement planning, economic development, and emergency preparedness and response – at the regional level and state-wide level. 	Medium	Work on charter to commence in 2026 and will be informed by new legislative provisions clarifying the role of local government.
3	<p>The Tasmanian Government should work with the sector to develop, resource, and implement a renewed Strategic Planning and Reporting Framework that is embedded in a new Local Government Act to support and underpin the role of local government. Under this Framework councils will be required to develop – within the first year of every council election – a four-year strategic plan.</p> <p>The plan would consist of component plans including, at minimum, a:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • community engagement plan; • workforce development plan; • elected member capability and professional development plan; and • financial and asset sustainability plan. 	<p>Support.</p> <p>The Government will embed a new high-level Strategic Planning and Reporting Framework in the Local Government Act and then support councils to implement it progressively over time (noting that the workforce development plan would be a specific responsibility of the General Manager).</p> <p>This framework will be informed by the role of local government, set out under recommendation 1.</p>	High	To be incorporated as part of priority legislative amendments to be brought in before 2026 council elections.

	FoLGR Recommendation	Government Response	Priority	Timeframe
4	<p>Formal council amalgamation proposals should be developed for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Coast, Waratah-Wynyard and Circular Head Councils (into 2 councils, with West Coast Council developing a service purchasing model to improve sustainability); • Kentish and Latrobe Councils; • Break O'Day, Glamorgan-Spring Bay and Sorell Councils (into 2 councils); • City of Hobart and Glenorchy City Councils; • Kingborough and Huon Valley Councils. <p>The Board acknowledges council interest in and discussions on boundary changes are less advanced in respect of City of Hobart and Glenorchy, and Kingborough and Huon Valley councils, but nonetheless believes that these councils have expressed clear interest in further exploring opportunities. The Board believes there is substantial merit in ensuring that those councils (and their communities) are afforded the opportunity to genuinely explore structural consolidation proposals in greater detail.</p>	<p>Support in principle.</p> <p>The Government will work with, and support interested councils with progressing structural reform where councils are both able to prepare and submit credible and robust proposals and can demonstrate the intent and commitment of all participating councils to proceed with reform based on any amalgamation business cases undertaken. This approach will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motivated councils further developing (in consultation with the Office of Local Government) clearly scoped amalgamation project proposals, that specify the necessary technical analysis, change management, implementation design and community engagement required to deliver robust, credible, and actionable amalgamation proposals; • Councils clearly identifying their funding needs to deliver the above proposals, including councils' own proposed investment/contributions, and any funding request from the State Government; • the Office of Local Government assisting highly motivated councils to proactively commence work over the 2024-25 period, in a manner that will maximise the objectives of any agreed amalgamation project proposal. <p>As the program of work is being driven primarily by councils, it is proposed that councils themselves should be responsible for demonstrating community support in any final amalgamation proposal. Under this model the Government will not prescribe that elector polls or community votes be undertaken in order for amalgamation proposals to be progressed.</p> <p>The conduct of community consultation and engagement is at the discretion of the councils involved in the amalgamation proposals (this may include elector polls).</p>	High	Timeframes will be contingent on council-led processes for developing amalgamation proposals.

	FoLGR Recommendation	Government Response	Priority	Timeframe
5	A new Local Government Board should be established to undertake detailed assessment of formal council amalgamation proposals and make recommendations to the Tasmanian Government on specific new council structures.	<p>Support.</p> <p>A Local Government Board will need to be established to progress any proposed amalgamation (noting the Act prescribes that changes to local government areas may only be done as the result of a Local Government Board Review). Under this proposed approach, the role of and process for the necessary Board would be as targeted and streamlined as possible, noting that the Act prescribes certain minimum council and community consultation requirements that would need to be satisfied.</p> <p>The Board will be established with expertise in areas such as council administration and operations, workforce development, and organisational change management.</p>	Lower	A Board will only be established in response to council amalgamation proposals.
6	A Community Working Group (CWG) should be established in each area where formal amalgamation proposals are being prepared. The CWG would identify specific opportunities the Tasmanian Government could support to improve community outcomes.	<p>Support in principle.</p> <p>the extent to which a community working group is required will be a matter for councils developing amalgamation proposals to determine in consultation with the Office of Local Government.</p>	Lower	Dependent on councils who wish to initiate a CWG to test a voluntary amalgamation proposal.
7	In those areas where amalgamation proposals are being developed, a community vote should be held before any reform proceeds, to consider an integrated package of reform that involves both a formal council amalgamation proposal and a funded package of opportunities to improve community outcomes.	<p>Support in principle.</p> <p>Councils developing amalgamation proposals will determine how they engage with and seek community support as part of the development of their proposal.</p> <p>The Government supports the need for community engagement for any proposal to amalgamate.</p>	Lower	Dependent on councils developing amalgamation proposals.
8	If a successful community-initiated elector poll requests councils to consider amalgamation, the Minister for Local Government should request the Local Government Board to develop a formal amalgamation proposal and put it to a community vote.	<p>Not supported.</p> <p>The Local Government Act 1993 includes provisions for triggering elector polls and community votes. The Minister would need to consider a range of factors when deciding whether to ask the Local Government Board to develop a formal amalgamation proposal, not only the results of a community-initiated elector poll.</p>	-	-

	FoLGR Recommendation	Government Response	Priority	Timeframe
9	The new Local Government Act should provide that the Minister for Local Government can require councils to participate in identified shared service or shared staffing arrangements.	Partially support. Any potential legislative reforms would give the Minister a power to compel councils to participate in council-owned joint entities (subject to conditions), but only after all councils party to the proposal had developed and agreed a service-sharing model. The Minister would not be empowered to initiate mandatory service sharing without strong and demonstrated sectoral support.	Lower	To be considered and incorporated in later legislative amendments (post-2026).
10	Give councils the opportunity to design identified shared service arrangements themselves, with a model only being imposed if councils cannot reach consensus.	Partially support. All councils would have the opportunity to develop a service sharing model, however the Minister would not be empowered to impose mandatory service sharing where that did not have support from all councils involved.	Lower	To be considered and incorporated in later legislative amendments (post-2026).
11	Before endorsing a particular mandatory shared service arrangement, the Minister for Local Government should seek the advice of the Local Government Board.	Support in principle. Provisions to allow the Minister to seek advice of the Local Government Board will be incorporated via a future legislative amendment. The provisions will require the Minister to also consult with affected councils.	Lower	To be considered and incorporated in later legislative amendments (post-2026).
12	If councils are unable to reach consensus on a mandatory service sharing agreement, the Minister for Local Government should have the power to require councils to participate in a specific model or models the Tasmanian Government has developed.	Partially support. Service sharing would only be 'locked in' by the Minister with the support of all affected councils.	Lower	To be considered and incorporated in later legislative amendments (post-2026).

	FoLGR Recommendation	Government Response	Priority	Timeframe
13	<p>The first priorities for developing mandatory shared service arrangements should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sharing of key technical staff; • sharing of common digital business systems and ICT infrastructure; and • sharing of asset management expertise through a centralised, council-owned authority. 	<p>Support in principle.</p> <p>Mandatory service sharing arrangements would only be developed for priorities that have strong and demonstrated support from the local government sector.</p>	Lower	Ongoing.
14	<p>Include a statutory requirement for councils to consult with local communities to identify wellbeing priorities, objectives, and outcomes in a new Local Government Act. Once identified, councils would be required to integrate the priorities into their strategic planning, service delivery and decision-making processes.</p>	<p>Support.</p> <p>This requirement will be incorporated into new statutory provisions surrounding community engagement plans.</p>	Medium	Councils will be supported to identify local wellbeing priorities upon when developing their community engagement plans.
15	<p>To be eligible to stand for election to council, all candidates should first undertake – within six months prior to nominating – a prescribed, mandatory education session, to ensure all candidates understand the role of councillor and their responsibilities if elected.</p>	<p>Support.</p> <p>This requirement will be incorporated into new statutory provisions on the roles and responsibilities of councillors.</p> <p>A pre-candidacy education program will be implemented six months before the council elections are due in October 2026.</p> <p>As suggested by LGAT in 2018, amendments will also require all councillors standing for election to state or federal parliament to take leave from their council position. This will help to minimise any actual or perceived conflicts of interest in their council role.</p>	High	To be incorporated as part of priority legislative amendments to be brought in before 2026 council elections. Information program to commence in early 2026.

	FoLGR Recommendation	Government Response	Priority	Timeframe
16	<p>The Tasmanian Government and the local government sector should jointly develop and implement a contemporary, best practice learning and ongoing professional development framework for elected members. As part of this framework, under a new Local Government Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> all elected members – including both new and returning councillors – should be required to complete a prescribed ‘core’ learning and development program within the first 12 months of being elected; and councils should be required to prepare, at the beginning of each new term, an elected member learning and capability development plan to support the broader ongoing professional development needs of their elected members. 	<p>Support.</p> <p>The Government will work with the sector to develop the principles and core components of the Learning and Development Framework and embed these in legislation.</p>	High	To be incorporated as part of priority legislative amendments to be brought in before 2026 council elections.
17	<p>The Tasmanian Government should further investigate and consider introducing an alternative framework for councils to raise revenue from major commercial operations in their local government areas, where rates based on the improved value of land are not an efficient, effective, or equitable form of taxation.</p>	<p>Partially support.</p> <p>The Government will consult on potential frameworks to help benefit councils that assist major operations in their local government areas.</p>	High	Work to commence by the end of 2024.

	FoLGR Recommendation	Government Response	Priority	Timeframe
18	The Tasmanian Government should work with the sector and the development industry to further investigate and consider introducing a marginal cost-based integrated developer charging regime.	<p>Support.</p> <p>The Government will consult with the sector and industry to investigate how a new statewide developer charges framework could work if supported by industry. This would be designed to support and incentivise effective development in designated geographic areas for defined purposes.</p> <p>The purpose of the framework would be to provide developer certainty, remove disadvantage for early movers and support redevelopment and urban design. The framework would also include transparency measures to ensure that the developer charges were not used for general revenue raising. As a priority, the framework would target areas of medium density residential development.</p>	High	Work to commence by the end of 2024.
19	Introduce additional minimum information requirements for council rates notices to improve public transparency, accountability, and confidence in council rating and financial management decisions.	<p>Support.</p> <p>These requirements will be developed in consultation with the sector to ensure they are useful to the community and fit for purpose, but will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an explanation of the landowner's year-on-year change in general rates payable, and what has driven that change (e.g. rating policy change or property valuation) • the average year-on-year general rate change for a property in the municipality, expressed as relative change; and • a simple break-down of how a council has rates have been applied to categories of functions and services provided to the community. 	High	To be incorporated as part of priority legislative amendments to be brought in before 2026 council elections.

	FoLGR Recommendation	Government Response	Priority	Timeframe
20	<p>Within the context of the national framework, the Tasmanian Government should seek advice from the State Grants Commission on how it will ensure the Financial Assistance Grants methodology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is transparent and well understood by councils and the community, • that assistance is being targeted efficiently and effectively, and • is not acting as a disincentive for councils to pursue structural reform opportunities. 	<p>Support in principle.</p> <p>Noting the independent role of the State Grants Commission, the Government supports the Commission's ongoing program of reviewing its methodology in consultation with councils, in accordance with the national framework.</p>	Medium	Ongoing.
21	The Tasmanian Government should review the total amount of Heavy Vehicle Motor Tax Revenue made available to councils and consider basing this total amount on service usage data.	<p>Partially support.</p> <p>The Government will undertake a general review of the amount of Heavy Vehicle Motor Tax made available to councils, to ensure that the distribution remains justified in the context of broader roads-related funding that is provided to local government.</p>	High	Review to be undertaken in 2025.
22	Introduce a framework for council fees and charges in a new Local Government Act, to support the expanded, equitable and transparent utilisation of fees and charges to fund certain council services.	<p>Support.</p> <p>The Government will engage with the sector on a suitable framework for including in the Act.</p>	Medium	These provisions will be incorporated in later legislative amendments post-2026.
23	The Tasmanian Government should review the current rating system under the Local Government Act to make it simpler, more equitable, and more predictable for landowners. The review should only be undertaken following implementation of the Board's other rating and revenue recommendations.	<p>Support.</p> <p>The review will be undertaken in close consultation with the community and local government sector.</p>	Medium	Broader review to be undertaken post 2026.

	FoLGR Recommendation	Government Response	Priority	Timeframe
24	The Tasmanian Government should work with the sector to develop, resource, and implement a best practice local government performance monitoring system.	<p>Support.</p> <p>The Government will work with the sector to improve the current performance monitoring and reporting framework, including exploring opportunities to more effectively present public-facing data to help councils and communities better understand how councils are performing on an individual and comparative basis (e.g. via an online, interactive dashboard). This work will be supported by measures to improve data quality and integrity (see Recommendation 25).</p> <p>Increased transparency on rating and revenue will be a priority under this framework.</p>	Medium	Ongoing, and in line with development and roll-out of new strategic planning and reporting framework for councils.
25	The Tasmanian Government should develop a clear and consistent set of guidelines for the collection, recording, and publication of datasets that underpin the new performance reporting system to improve overall data consistency and integrity, and prescribe data methodologies and protocols via a Ministerial Order or similar mechanism.	<p>Support.</p> <p>As part of this the Government will work with the sector to improve the current Consolidated Data Collection system with more consistent, clear, and streamlined data requirements that are fit for purpose and can better inform council and State Government decision-making.</p>	High	New performance monitoring guidelines to be developed in 2025-26.
26	<p>The new Strategic Planning and Reporting Framework should actively inform and drive education, compliance, and regulatory enforcement activities for the sector, and entities with responsibility for compliance monitoring and management – including the Office of Local Government and council audit panels – should be properly empowered and resourced to effectively deliver their roles.</p> <p>As part of this the Tasmanian Government should consider introducing a requirement for councils to have an internal audit function given their responsibilities for managing significant public assets and resources, and whether this requirement needs to be legislated or otherwise mandated. Consideration should also be given to resourcing internal audit via service sharing or pooling arrangements, particularly for smaller councils.</p>	<p>Support.</p> <p>As an early priority, the Government will introduce new statutory provisions requiring councils to have an internal audit function, bringing them in line with State agencies. This is appropriate given their responsibilities for managing significant public assets and resources, and analysis undertaken during FoLGR which identified highly uneven – and at times deficient – compliance with a range of statutory reporting requirements. Internal audit capability will also support and bolster broader audit panel capability.</p> <p>The Office of Local Government will publish its local government compliance plan after the new performance monitoring requirements have been published.</p>	High	<p>Provisions in relation to the new internal audit function will be incorporated as part of priority legislative amendments to be brought in 2025-2026.</p> <p>First compliance plans published in 2027.</p>

	FoLGR Recommendation	Government Response	Priority	Timeframe
27	The Tasmanian Government should collaborate with the local government sector to support a genuine, co-regulatory approach to councils' regulatory responsibilities, with state agencies providing ongoing professional support to council staff and involving councils in all stages of regulatory design and implementation.	<p>Support.</p> <p>The Government will continue to engage with the sector to explore co-regulatory initiatives to improve community outcomes.</p> <p>The development of the new Charter for local government will provide the opportunity for the State Government and the sector to jointly identify priority focus areas.</p>	Medium	Ongoing.
28	The Tasmanian Government should work with the local government sector to pursue opportunities for strengthened partnerships between local government and Service Tasmania.	<p>Support.</p> <p>The Government will continue to engage with the sector to explore opportunities for strengthened partnerships between local government and Service Tasmania.</p> <p>Partnership opportunities may be initially targeted in municipal areas where councils are preparing voluntary amalgamation proposals, to support these councils and communities.</p>		Ongoing.
29	Councils should migrate over time to common digital business systems and ICT infrastructure that meet their needs for digital business services, with support from the Department of Premier and Cabinet's Digital Strategy and Services (DSS).	<p>Support in principle.</p> <p>Mandatory service sharing arrangements such as these would only be developed if there is strong and demonstrated support for this change from the local government sector.</p>	Lower	Ongoing.
30	The Tasmanian Government – in consultation with the sector – should review the current legislative requirements on councils for strategic financial and asset management planning documentation to simplify and streamline the requirements and support more consistent and transparent compliance.	<p>Support.</p> <p>These provisions will be reviewed as part of the work to support the implementation of the of the new Strategic Planning and Reporting Framework (recommendation 3).</p>	Medium	These provisions will be considered in line with development and roll-out of new strategic planning and reporting framework for councils.

	FoLGR Recommendation	Government Response	Priority	Timeframe
31	The Tasmanian Government – in consultation with the sector – should investigate the viability of, and seek to implement wherever possible, standardised useful asset life ranges for all major asset classes.	Support in principle. The OLG and TAO will work with councils to establish benchmark asset life ranges for major asset classes. Councils who adopt asset useful lives outside these benchmarks will be asked to publish a justification for their assessment. The Director of Local Government and TAO will consider these published statements in their ongoing audit and performance review processes.	Medium	To be undertaken in 2026.
32	All Tasmanian councils should be required under a new Local Government Act to develop and adopt community engagement strategies – underpinned by clear deliberative engagement principles.	Support. This will form part of a broader strategic planning and reporting framework (Recommendation 3), the components of which will be introduced over time.	Medium	These provisions will be incorporated as part of priority legislative amendments to be brought in before 2026.
33	A new Local Government Act should require councils, when developing and adopting their Community Engagement Strategies, to clearly set out how they will consult on, assess, and communicate the community impact of all significant new services or infrastructure.	Support. New statutory provisions will require councils to consult their communities on any significant changes proposed to council services and infrastructure.	Lower	These provisions will be considered in line with development and roll-out of new strategic planning and reporting framework for councils.

	FoLGR Recommendation	Government Response	Priority	Timeframe
34	Following the phase 1 voluntary amalgamation program, the Tasmanian Government should commission an independent review into councillor numbers and allowances.	<p>Support in principle.</p> <p>Councillor allowances will be reviewed based on the current allowance calculation methodology. Changes will be reflected in Schedule 4 of the Local Government (General) Regulations when the regulations are remade in 2025.</p> <p>A comprehensive review of councillor allowances and councillor numbers will be undertaken after the 2026 local government elections).</p>	Lower	Interim review to be conducted in 2025, with broader review in 2027.
35	The Tasmanian Government should expedite reforms already agreed and/or in train in respect of statutory sanctions available to deal with councillor misconduct or poor performance.	<p>Support.</p> <p>New provisions in the Act will define behaviours that constitute 'serious misconduct' by councillors and establish new offences with stronger sanctions for dealing with it. This may include removal from office, and disqualification from running for office.</p> <p>Active consideration will be given to the potential role of TASCAT in investigating and/or enforcing new serious misconduct provisions</p>	High	New provisions to be developed and implemented as part of priority legislative amendments to be brought in before 2026.

	FoLGR Recommendation	Government Response	Priority	Timeframe
36	<p>The Tasmanian Government should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> support the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) to develop and implement – in consultation with councils and their staff – a workforce development toolkit tailored to the sector and aligned with the Tasmanian Government's workforce development system; support councils to update their workforce plans at the time of any consolidation; support LGAT to lead the development and implementation of a state-wide approach to workforce development for key technical staff, beginning with environmental health officers, planners, engineers and building inspectors; recognise in statute that workforce development is an ongoing responsibility of council General Managers and is included as part of the new Strategic Planning and Reporting Framework; and include simple indicators of each council's workforce profile in the proposed council performance dashboard. 	<p>Support in principle.</p> <p>Noting that a statewide approach to workforce development is not intended to be limited to key technical staff; the local government sector is likely to identify additional priorities over time.</p> <p>The Government will work with the sector to identify and address priorities on an ongoing basis.</p>	Medium	Ongoing.
37	<p>The Tasmanian Government should partner with, and better support, councils to build capacity and capability to plan for and respond to emergency events and climate change impacts.</p>	<p>Support.</p> <p>The Government will continue with current and planned programs to provide support to local councils.</p>	Medium	Ongoing.

