

PLEASE QUOTE

Your Ref:

Our Ref: 25/9169

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4 April 2025

Office of Local Government  
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HOBART TAS 7001

Via email: [lg.consultation@dpac.tas.gov.au](mailto:lg.consultation@dpac.tas.gov.au)

*A hard copy will not be sent unless requested*

Dear Sir Madam

## **CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTORAL BILL**

Thank you for the opportunity for Burnie City Council to consult on the above.

Council notes that there are a considerable number of reforms proposed. Rather than commenting on each individually, Council has focussed on providing feedback on those it has discussed and wishes to comment on, as detailed in the attached table.

Yours faithfully

Shane Crawford  
**GENERAL MANAGER**

Cc: Dion Lester, CEO LGAT

Encl. Proposed changes to the Local Government Electoral Bill

| Proposed Reform                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Burnie City Council Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The future format of local government elections in Tasmania                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Council supports in-principle the notion of voting in person as the primary means of participation. This would align local government elections more closely to the model used for Tasmanian and Australian parliamentary elections and hopefully improve credibility of the industry.                                                                                                                                                                          |
| who should vote in local government elections, and how should we elect the deputy mayor                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p>The role and election of Deputy Mayor is challenging due to many mixed views and opinions and Council has not settled on a final or defined view.</p> <p>The question to be asked is “why is a change to the current process necessary?”. A designated Deputy Mayor ensures an agreed and efficient protocol whenever the Mayor is not available to fulfill their duties - it is up to the Mayor and Deputy to establish processes that ensures success.</p> |
| <b>Reform 5:</b> increase the number of elector signatures required to support a notice of nomination to the lesser of 30 or one per cent of the number of electors in the municipal area.                                                                                                                                                                                           | Council does not support this additional administrative burden on potential applicants                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Reform 6:</b> move administration of the ‘general managers’ roll’ from councils to the Tasmanian Electoral Commission, including administration of the process through which land occupier and corporate nominee (supplementary electoral roll) electors are to enrol.                                                                                                            | Council is in full support of removal of the general managers roll to the TEC                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Reform 9:</b> implement the ‘one person, one vote’ principle and require a nominee of a corporate landowner or occupier of land may nominate one natural person who is an officeholder of the company to be its nominee.                                                                                                                                                          | Supported                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Reform 10:</b> provide that all intending candidates (other than incumbent councillors) must complete a prescribed program of pre-nomination training prior to their submission of a notice of nomination.                                                                                                                                                                        | The notion of pre-nomination training is supported in addition to more robust measures such as holding a working with vulnerable people card                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Reform 11:</b> require that the TEC provides all people submitting a notice of nomination the opportunity to provide a candidate information statement (in an approved format, providing prescribed information) and the Tasmanian Electoral Commission is to publish candidate information through appropriate means.                                                            | Supported                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Reform 29:</b> provide a statutory caretaker framework, applying from the notice of election to the date of the issue of the certificate of election for all elections other than by-elections and countbacks.                                                                                                                                                                    | A caretake period is supported governed by clear frameworks and requirements                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Reform 33:</b> increase the proportion of electors signing a petition required to compel a council to hold an elector poll to 20 per cent; while restricting the matters about which an elector poll may be held to matters with a legitimate connection to the exercise of a council’s functions or powers or to the incorporation of the council, as determined by the council. | Supported                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |