

## REFORM AREA 3

### SIMPLER REGULATION SUMMARY OF REFORM PROPOSALS

#### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**4.1** Replace the prescriptive community engagement requirements in the Local Government Act with a more flexible 'Community Engagement Charter'.

**4.2** Review the requirements for councils to publish notices.

#### INTERNAL REVIEW OF COUNCIL DECISIONS

**4.3** Allow councils to refuse a request for an internal review of a council decision where the request is substantially similar to a matter that has been reviewed, or is under review through another process.

**4.4** Enable councils to charge a small fee for internal review requests.

**4.5** Set a time limit on which requests for internal review of decisions can be made.

**4.6** Require councils to consider recommendations for improved administrative practices in their annual report on internal reviews.

#### INFORMAL GATHERINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

**4.7** Remove the 'informal gatherings' provisions in the Act, in favour of establishing a new category of meetings, such as 'information or briefing sessions'.

**4.8** Require councils to publish details of information sessions held, what was discussed, who attended, and whether the session was open or not.

#### REGISTER OF INTERESTS

**4.9** Compile all council members' registers of interest into one, simple plain English form.

**4.10** Publish council members' Register of Interests in full on the council website (with the exception of specific residential address information)

## PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION

- 4.11** Require councils to publish any document that is currently available at a council office on its website (with the exception of the Assessment Record)
- 4.12** Remove the requirement for councils to have documents 'available for inspection', but require them to print a copy at request (for a fee).
- 4.13** Include a single list of all material to be published on a council's website in the legislation.

## COMMUNITY LAND REVOCATIONS

- 4.14** Create two categories of community land revocation proposals within the Act ('administrative' and 'significant') and require Ministerial approval only for 'significant' proposals.
- 4.15** Enable limited amendments to Schedule 8 to allow minor changes to the management of prescribed land.
- 4.16** Clarify that councils do not need to undertake community land revocation proposal where the council's care, control and management of the land has been withdrawn under the *Crown Land Management Act 2009*.
- 4.17** Enable a council to revoke the classification of land as community land where owners cannot reasonably be found.
- 4.18** Provide a mechanism to allow councils to acquire private roads where the owner consents, where the owner is deceased or where the owner cannot reasonably be found and to allow the council to retain or transfer the land to another party.

## AUTHORISATIONS AND PERMITS FOR USE OF COUNCIL ROADS

- 4.19** Review the public consultation requirements that apply to permits and authorisations, in line with a new community engagement approach.
- 4.20** Remove specific provisions regarding mobile food vendors, in favour of a 'general right of appeal' where a council has unreasonably affected a business.

# REFORMING LOCAL GOVERNMENT

## IDEAS FOR REFORM CONSULTATION SUMMARY

### WHAT WE RECEIVED



Over 80 submissions received



170 yourSAy surveys completed



37 ideas shared through yourSAy online discussion



Over 700 ideas for reform

### WHO WE HEARD FROM



**51%**  
Public



**31%**  
Councils



**11%**  
Elected Members



**7%**  
Professional Body

### WHAT AREAS INTERESTED YOU MOST



**24%**  
Council member capacity and conduct



**19%**  
Lower costs and enhanced financial accountability



**29%**  
Local Government representation



**28%**  
Simpler regulation

### WHAT YOUR IDEAS WERE ABOUT

<b>REFORM AREA ONE</b>	<b>48%</b>	Code of conduct	<b>15%</b>	Council member training
	<b>24%</b>	Conflict of interest	<b>13%</b>	Council member performance
<b>REFORM AREA TWO</b>	<b>23%</b>	Financial management	<b>20%</b>	Benchmarking
	<b>21%</b>	Audit committees	<b>16%</b>	Auditing
	<b>20%</b>	Rating		
<b>REFORM AREA THREE</b>	<b>31%</b>	Voting method	<b>9%</b>	Representation reviews
	<b>19%</b>	Candidate disclosure	<b>8%</b>	Elections
	<b>15%</b>	Nominations	<b>8%</b>	Supplementary elections
	<b>10%</b>	Candidacy		
<b>REFORM AREA FOUR</b>	<b>25%</b>	Council meetings	<b>19%</b>	Section 270 reviews
	<b>23%</b>	Consultation/ engagement	<b>11%</b>	Transparency
	<b>22%</b>	Informal gatherings		

### TIMELINE FOR REFORM

#### STAGE ONE

**MARCH — APRIL**

Call for ideas consultation

#### STAGE TWO

**JULY — AUGUST**

Release of discussion paper

**NOVEMBER**

Engagement on proposals

**— 2020**

Release of Draft Bill



**Government of South Australia**

Department of Planning,  
Transport and Infrastructure

PROPOSALS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM  
AUGUST 2019 - DISCUSSION PAPER