

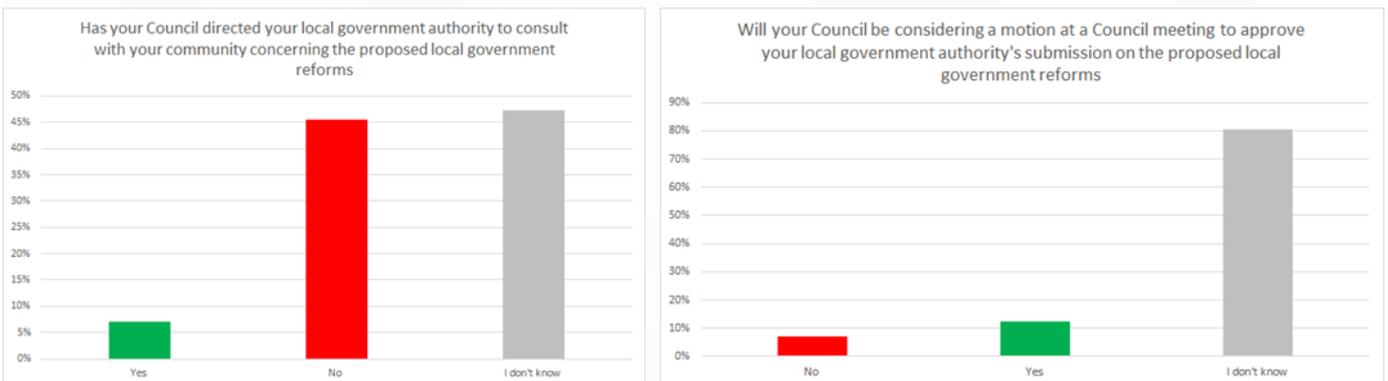


24 February 2022

The Australian Local Government Association states on its website that local governments are the ‘closest to the community and best able to identify community needs’, yet, as expressed through our survey, many members of the community - residents, ratepayers, electors and customers - believe that local government is self-serving, suffering from regulatory capture or has a misplaced understanding of what it’s community actually needs and wants.

The level (lack) of Community Engagement in the Proposed Local Government Reforms process only serves to justify these community perceptions of local government.

### Proposed Local Government Reform Community Engagement



Whilst both Local Government representatives and the community agree there is a need for Local Government Reform, the community’s expectation is that the reform process will have, and will, deliver the end goal of benefiting the community as a priority. This survey report is provided to assist the State Government in achieving that goal



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Public group · 2.3K members  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/localgovernmentreform>

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The Local Government Reform Facebook Group responded to the State Government invitation for Community to make submissions concerning the Proposed Local Government Reforms by creating a comprehensive survey based on the proposals developed by the state government and additional proposals that were submitted by group members.

This survey was then distributed publicly by volunteers using Facebook and emails in a viral campaign. With factors such as the period over which the response period took place (Christmas, New Year, Australia Day and the Summer School Holidays), this being the first serious state-wide engagement of community by community and there being no budget for the project, this methodology attracted 348 Respondents from across 60 Local Government Areas.

The Proportion of non-Rate Paying Respondents is a clear indication that more needs to be done to engage Business and Residential Tenants in Local Government matters.

In addition to the proposed reforms, the issue of Council Candidate Profiles emerged as a significant concern and a dedicated question to this matter was included in the survey.

There are strong Community concerns with the proposed reform outcomes relating to:

- High demand for greater detail of the proposed reforms before community can accept reforms
- A reduction in the ability of Councillors to represent their interests
- Stifling Councillors ability to speak freely and to conduct their responsibilities without repercussion
- Administrative Staff being provided with too much control without Council oversight
- WALGA's influence and ability to operate without appropriate scrutiny
- Lack of transparency and accountability delivered by Councils and Administrations
- Reduction of community ability to access accurate and complete information
- Reduction of community ability to communicate with Councillors and Administration
- Insufficient meaningful, effective, representative Community Engagement
- Risk to community if Local Government / Local Government Bodies become involved in commercial activities



# Local Government Act Reforms Community Survey

## Understanding this Survey

**ONE VOICE for WA**

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- Respondents were not required to address every question
- The responses to each question are shown as a percentage of the total responses to each individual question and categorised as:
  - Do not support
  - Tend not to support, but need to know more
  - Need to know more
  - Tend to support but need to know more
  - Support
- The Response tables provide the questions and responses in the order most respondents to each item
- Need to know more = Tend not to support, but need to know more + Need to know more + Tend to support but need to know more as a percentage of all responses to each item

Disclaimer: the views of the community expressed in this survey do not necessarily represent the views of the survey organisers. The data and additional comments by Respondents have not been edited and is an actual representation of the feedback by the Respondents

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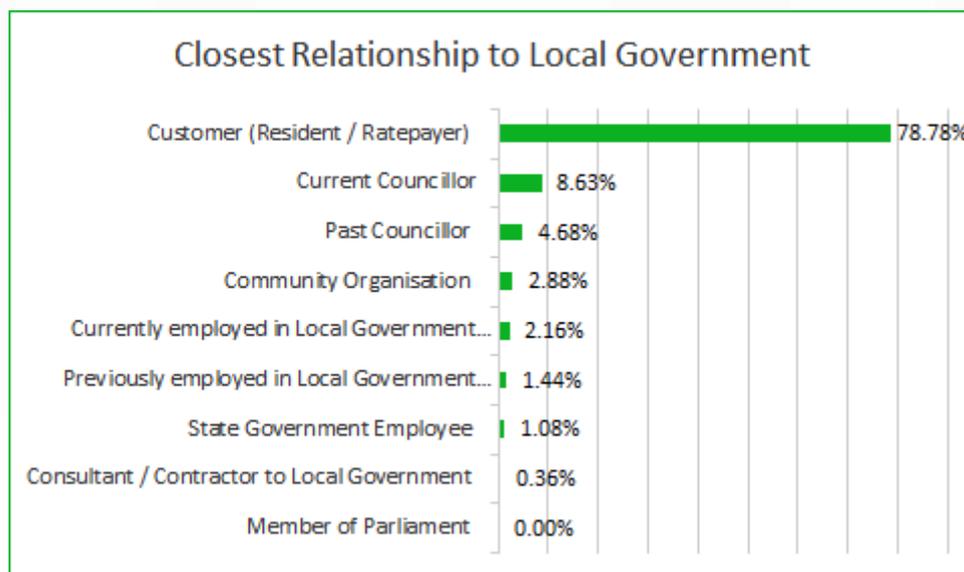
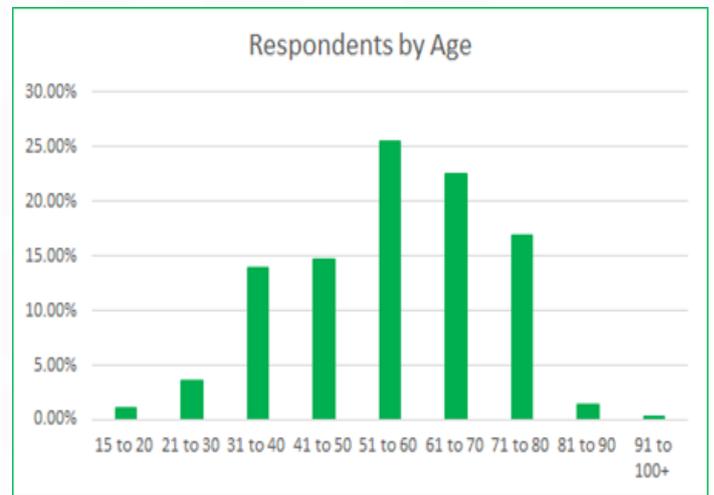
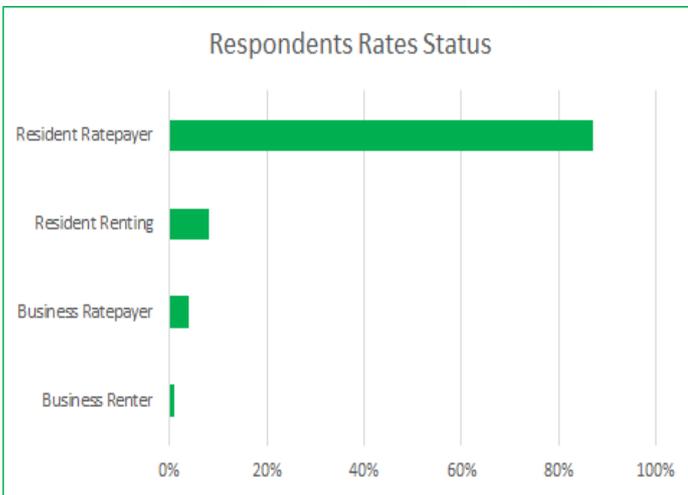
# Local Government Act Reforms Community Survey



## Survey Data

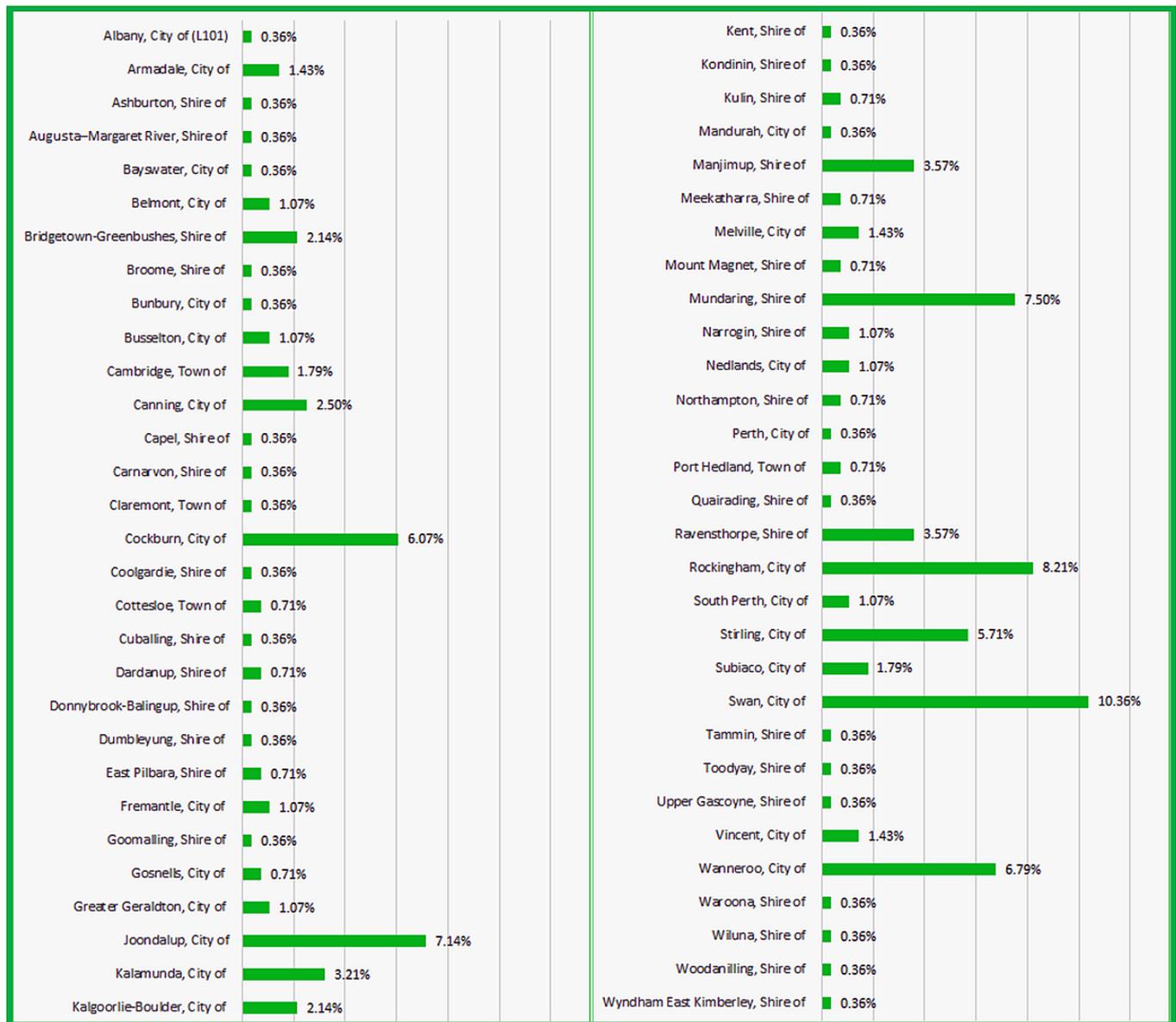
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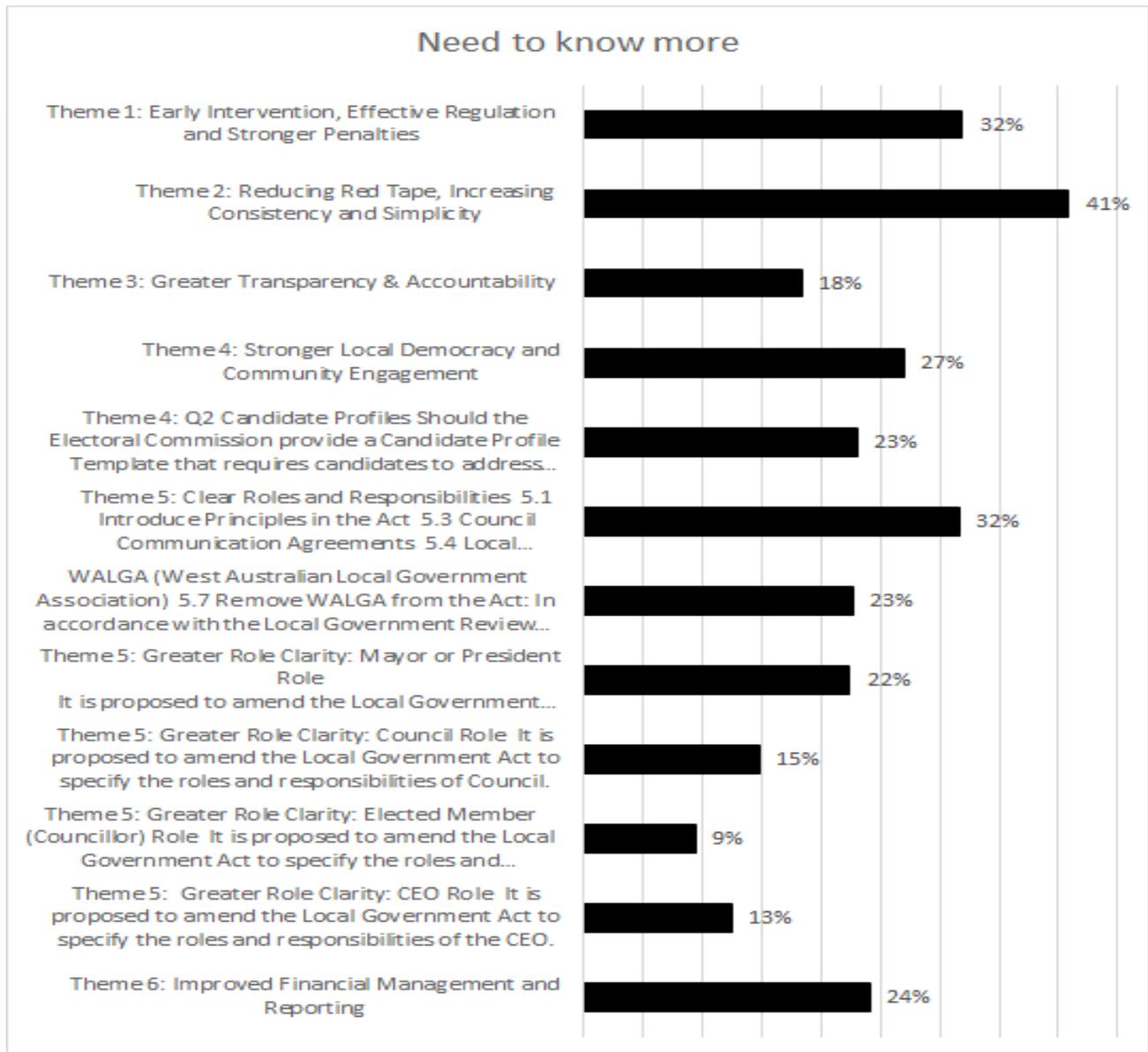
## Respondent Demographics

### Participating Local Government Areas (Alphabetical)

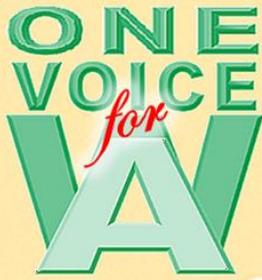


## The need for more information

A common issue displayed by the survey respondents is the need for more information in relation to the proposed reforms, shown here as a percentage of responses indicating “need to know more” within each question.



# Local Government Act Reforms Community Survey



## Survey Analysis Snapshot

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## VOTING AND ELECTIONS

### Political parties

90% of respondents support a desire for political parties to be kept out of local government.

### Compulsory voting

74% of respondents supported the proposal for voting to be compulsory in local government elections. 17% favoured the current voluntary system.

### Preferential voting proposal

There were a number of questions in relation to the vote counting method. The majority of respondents did not support a change to preferential voting.

### Should the current voting system of first past the post be retained?

65% supported this statement, 24% opposed and 11% require more information.

### Does preferential voting better capture the intentions of voters and result in a fairer and more representative system?

44% support, 44% oppose, 13% require more information.

### Does optional preferential voting better capture the intention of voters and, as such, a fairer system?

39% support, 48% oppose, 14% require more information.

### Will preferential voting disadvantage local independent candidates?

57% agreed, 24% opposed and 19% required more information.

### Will preferential voting politicise local government?

60% support, 20% oppose, 20% required more information.

## **Voting to elect Mayor/President**

The proposal from the State Government is that electors would directly elect the Mayor/President in Band 1 and 2 councils. 63% of respondents supported this, 18% opposed, and 19% required more information.

However, the survey included a proposal about whether ALL local governments should enable electors to directly elect the Mayor/President (not just band 1&2).

74% of respondents supported this proposal, 15% opposed and 10% required more information.

## **Election of the deputy mayor/president**

74% of respondents supported the proposal for elected members to publicly disclose who they voted for through a 'show of hands' at the relevant council meeting. 19% of respondents favoured the current approach, and 8% required more information.

## **Election caretaker period**

84% of respondents supported the proposal to introduce a legislated requirement for local governments to adopt a caretaker period before elections.

In relation to elements that should be included in the caretaker period policy:

- 78% of respondents supported a prohibition on elected members supporting or endorsing candidates during and election campaign.
- 82% of respondents supported prohibition of the CEO requesting additional staff during the caretaker period.
- 86% of respondents supported a definition of major decision to at least include time and cost factors.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### Community engagement charters

92% of respondents supported the government's proposal requiring local governments to adopt a community engagement charter.

89% of respondents supported the proposal that a model charter containing minimum standards should be provided by the state government which local governments can add to, but not remove.

90% of respondents supported the proposal that triggers for consultation included in the charter should include borrowing, change of purpose in land use, and major changes to policies strategy.

91% of respondents supported the proposal that the charter needs to be a mechanism for guiding and enhancing community participation in local decision-making and set parameters and provide direction on processes and mechanisms to be used.

91% of respondents supported the proposal that the charter should include a reporting mechanism in the annual report.

80% of respondents supported the additional proposal that local governments being required to have an advocacy policy. This policy would state when a local government would perform an advocacy role for the residents and ratepayers of its district when dealing with other levels of government. 7% did not favour, and 13% required more information.

92% of respondents supported the proposal that Councils and staff with delegated authority must be guided by community feedback. Evidence of the engagement process and outcomes must be provided in all reports to council and committees.

78% of respondents supported a proposal that Councils should not hire consultants to conduct community engagement where a Council has a dedicated "Community department" in its administration. 16% were not in favour.

### Community satisfaction surveys

83% of respondents supported the state government proposal that community satisfaction survey be conducted every 4 years by local governments in bands 1&2.

However, an additional proposal that ALL local governments conduct surveys every 2 years received similar support. 82% agreed with this proposal.

94% of respondents supported the proposal that surveys need to be independently assessed so that no survey is designed to influence the outcome otherwise other than to obtain a true and accurate reflection of the community's position.

93% of respondents supported the proposal that local governments are to ensure all residents - not just a cross-section - are provided with the opportunity to participate in the survey.

87% of respondents supported the proposal that there should be a standardised survey to ensure performance is measured against a common side of benchmarks across the state.

86% of respondents supported the proposal that community satisfaction survey results should be included as a mandatory component of the CEO KPIs.

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## Registers of public information

There was solid support for the new registers proposed by the State Government.

Lease register 89% support, 4% not support, 8% need more information

Contract register 94/3/3

Grants to community groups 93/2/4

Applicant contributions 91/1/10

Elected member and employee Interest disclosures 88/4/7

In addition to these registers, respondents were asked for views on the desirability of additional registers being created and maintained by local governments.

90% supported a consultant register which would list the details of contracts and the consultant appointed.

88% supported a similar register for contractors.

82% supported an elected member political affiliation register.

94% of respondents supported an additional proposal that all registers must be kept online indefinitely, and that they be updated on a monthly basis.

## WALGA

62% of respondents support the proposal that WALGA no longer be constituted under the local government act and 16% opposed the idea. 22% stated they needed more information - a high rate compared to the survey average.

There was considerably more support for the proposal that WALGA be subject to public and member scrutiny in whichever way it eventually becomes reconstituted. 87% supported this and only 5% opposed.

In relation to WALGA's preferred supplier and insurance service programs, 83% of respondents supported new oversight measures for these programs. This includes the power for the auditor general to conduct audits and that there be an independent cost benefit analysis conducted of the programs.

There was 95% support for the proposal that WALGA be required to be covered by the same financial and conflict of interest provisions that local government elected members and staff are presently governed by.

90% of respondents supported the proposal that income derived from WALGA's preferred supplier and insurance programs be used for the purpose of reducing local government contributions, and not used for the benefit of the WALGA organisation.

In relation to WALGA being appointed to boards and committees by the state government, 89% of respondents supported the proposal that local government organisations not be able to have a majority or balance of power representation on any of these committees.

In addition, 86% of respondents supported the state government appointing community representatives (as well as local government sector representatives) to relevant boards and committees.

In relation to WALGA adopting positions on behalf of local governments, 85% of respondents supported the proposal that WALGA only be able to adopt a position in relation to an issue if all its member councils have adopted a motion on any such position.

Further to this, 88% of respondents supported the proposal that WALGA being required to give its member organisations a sufficient period of notice when asking them to make decisions on requests from it.

## SURVEY RESPONSES TO STATE GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS

### Analysis

As an overall comment, a majority of the state governments proposals were supported by a majority of survey respondents, but support was stronger in some areas more than others. In particular, those which are aimed to achieve greater transparency, accountability and community engagement. Some of the more notable responses to proposals are provided below.

#### **80% + Support**

In no particular order, some of the more popular proposals - where support was 80% or more - include the following.

88% supported live streaming of council meetings. Notably this was for ALL local governments, not just those within bands 1&2 as proposed by the government.

94% of respondents supported votes being recorded at council meetings.

90% support the proposed restriction on declaring items at meeting to be confidential.

92% supported a requirement for local governments to adopt a consultation charter.

96% supported preventing the use of sham leases by people wishing to stand as a candidate in a local government election.

#### **Proposals that were not supported or had lower support compared to the average**

65% did NOT support the introduction of preferential voting and supported retaining the first past the post vote count method. 24% supported a change, and 11% required more information.

In answer to the question “does preferential voting better capture the intentions of voters” there was equal support and opposition to this proposal at 44%.

There is opposition by a majority of respondents to changing the frequency of local laws being updated to a period of 15 years. 62% of respondents opposed this proposal 22% supported out and 16% required more information.

In relation to the payment of superannuation to elected members, 49% of respondents oppose this proposal with 36% supporting it.

The proposal to introduce vexatious complainant legislation was balanced with 38% of respondents supporting and 38% opposing the proposal. A rather high, 23% of respondents required further information to form a considered view.

57% of respondents did not support proposed changes to the candidate profile.

The removal of wards in local governments in bands 3&4 received 60% support, 15% were not in favour and 25% required more information.

The removal of WALGA from the Act was supported by 62% of respondents 16% were not in favour and 22% require more information.

68% of respondents supported the red card proposal. 16% were not in favour, and 17% required more information.

## Response to each proposal

1.1 appointment of Chief Inspectors 78% support or tend to support, 8% do not support, or tend not to support, 14% require more information.

1.2 appointment of local government monitors 77/10/14

1.3 creation of a contact panel 75/6/19

1.4 stronger penalties 78/8/14

1.5 Red card 68/16/17

1.6 vexatious complainant 38/38/23

2.1 local government share resources 76/11/13

2.2 standardise crossovers 75/13/12

2.3 innovation

- Short term trials and pilot projects 56/13/31
- Urgent response to emergencies 59/12/29

2.4 15 year review period for local laws 22/62/16

2.5 standardise approval process for community events 67/17/16

2.6 standardise meeting procedures 82/9/9

2.7 regional subsidiaries

3.1 live streaming at meetings

- All local governments (not just bands one and two) 88/9/4

3.2 votes recorded 94/3/3

3.3 confidential items limited 90/1/8

- Written permission required otherwise.
- Recording sent to department of local government 83/7/10

3.4 online registers

- Lease register 89/4/8
- Contract 94/3/3
- Grants to community groups 93/2/4
- Applicant contributions 91/1/10
- Interest disclosures 88/4/7

3.5 CEO KPIs details published 90/5/6

- CEO KPI results published 88/7/6

- 4.1 consultation charter 92/2/6
- 4.2 satisfaction surveys 83/6/11
- 4.3 Preferential voting 44/44/13
- 4.4 public to vote for Mayor/President for band one & two councils 74/15/10
- 4.5 Limits on councillors 72/12/16
- 4.6 no wards for councils in bands three & four 60/15/25
- 4.7 prohibit sham leases 96/1/3
- 4.8 amend candidate profiles 29/57/14
- 4.9 recounts

- electoral rolls

#### 5.1 principles in the act

- Recognise aboriginal people 66/24
- Tiered local governments 55/16
- Community engagement 87/4
- Financial management 91/1

#### 5.2 new role statements

#### 5.3 communications agreement 90/1/10

#### 5.4 superannuation 36/49

#### 5.5 education allowance 64/20/19

#### 5.6 caretaker policy is 79/11/11

#### 5.7 WALGA removed 62/16/22

#### 5.8 panel for CEO recruitment 75/12/13

#### 6.1 standard templates for annual reporting 88/4/8

#### 6.2 Council plans 81/10/9

- Asset management plans 87/5/8
- Long-term financial plans 91/2/7
- Service/project plans 89/6/5

#### 6.3 rates and revenue plan 90/2/8

#### 6.4 credit card statements

#### 6.5 financial ratios

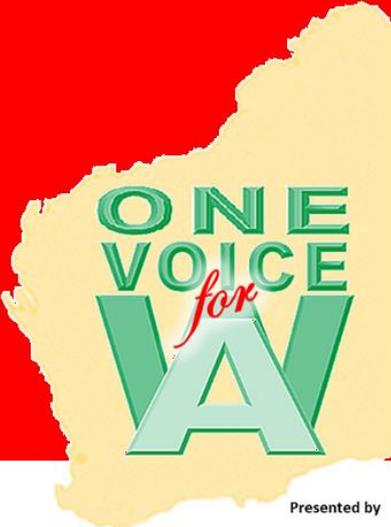
#### 6.6 audit committees

- Independent chair 91/5/4
- Regional audit committees 84/8/7
- Majority independent members 79/12/9

6.7 building upgrade finance 54/21/25

6.8 separate waste charge on rates notice 89/3/8

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# Local Government Act Reforms Community Survey

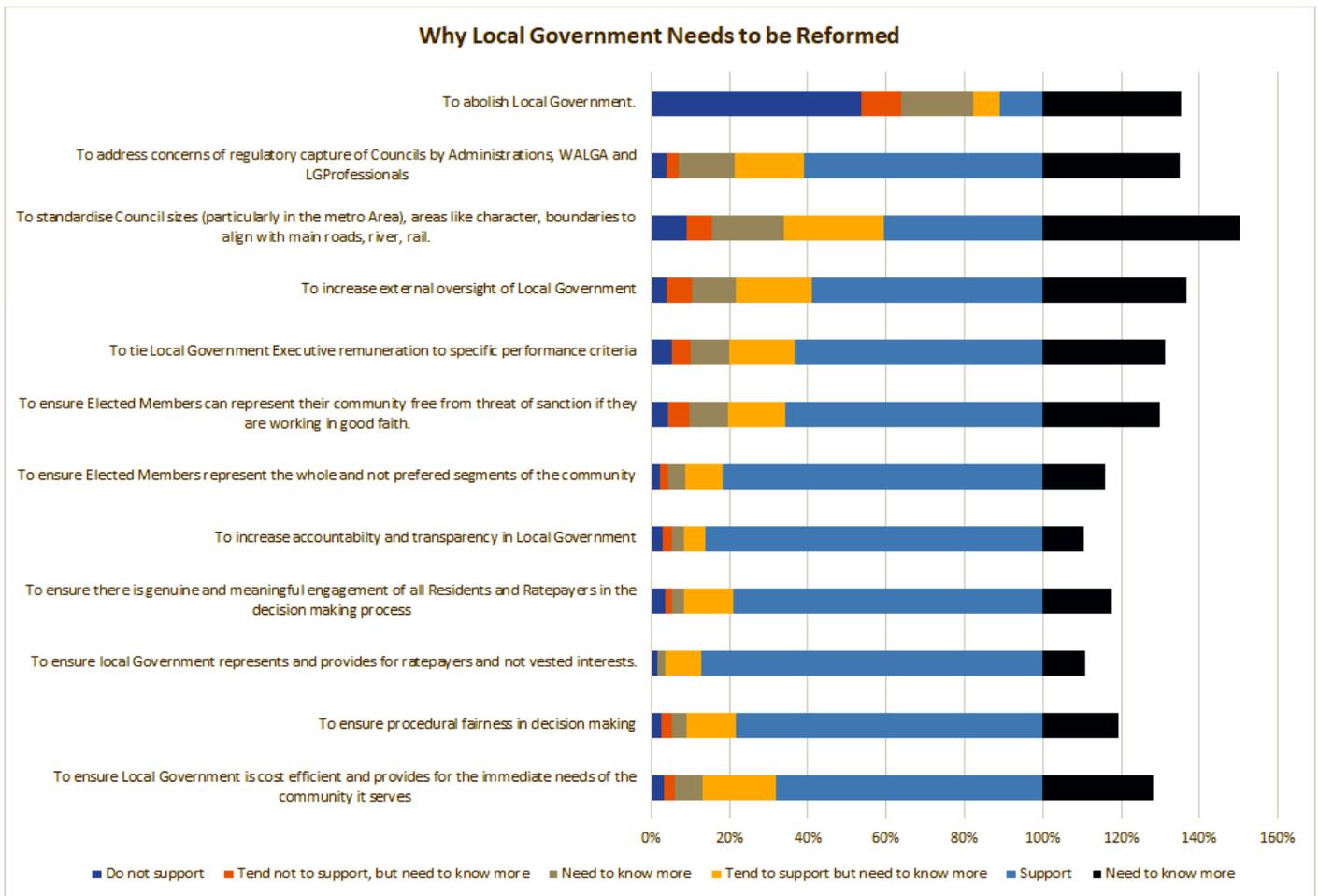
## Why Local Government needs reform

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Based on the community feedback contained within the additional comments for “ Why Local Government needs reform”, there is a strong indication of community mistrust, frustration and dissatisfaction with how local government is managed, operates and engages with its customers.

Why do you believe that Local Government needs to be reformed?	Total Respondents	Do not support	Tend not to support, but need to know more	Need to know more	Tend to support but need to know more	Support	Need to know more
To ensure Local Government is cost efficient and provides for the immediate needs of the community it serves	230	3%	3%	7%	19%	<b>68%</b>	28%
To ensure procedural fairness in decision making	229	3%	3%	4%	13%	<b>78%</b>	19%
To ensure local Government represents and provides for ratepayers and not vested interests.	228	2%	0%	2%	9%	<b>87%</b>	11%
To ensure there is genuine and meaningful engagement of all Residents and Ratepayers in the decision making process	227	4%	2%	3%	13%	<b>79%</b>	18%
To increase accountability and transparency in Local Government	226	3%	2%	3%	5%	<b>86%</b>	11%
To ensure Elected Members represent the whole and not preferred segments of the community	226	2%	2%	4%	9%	<b>82%</b>	16%
To ensure Elected Members can represent their community free from threat of sanction if they are working in good faith.	224	4%	5%	10%	15%	<b>66%</b>	30%
To tie Local Government Executive remuneration to specific performance criteria	224	5%	5%	10%	17%	<b>63%</b>	31%
To increase external oversight of Local Government	220	4%	6%	11%	19%	<b>59%</b>	37%
To standardise Council sizes (particularly in the metro Area), areas like character, boundaries to align with main roads, river, rail.	219	9%	6%	18%	26%	<b>41%</b>	50%
To address concerns of regulatory capture of Councils by Administrations, WALGA and LGProfessionals	217	4%	3%	14%	18%	<b>61%</b>	35%
To abolish Local Government.	210	<b>54%</b>	10%	19%	7%	11%	35%



#### Additional Comments - Why Local Government needs reform

- Standardise policies and procedures and local laws; Remove the need for mayors; allow councillors to have a greater say in administration; participative budgeting; Core services only - get rid of work that state and federal should be funding.
- The syllabuses that are listed in the course for the training of elected members are short of specific details as to what is specifically being taught.
- City of Swan is too large for the council to administer and care for. There is no community in an area half the size of Perth. Rural areas are lumped in with new suburban areas which is useless and frustrating.
- To ensure roads, paths and verges are well looked after regardless of areas socioeconomic status
- Accountability and transparency for all administrators' actions and decisions when they are applying laws and regulations to ratepayers.
- Rates need to go down. Tax rates do, so rates must do too at some point
- Look at the community as a whole not groups within a community.
- Make the basics the same across the metro area regardless of "city's".
- Transparency and accountability of CEO overseeing decisions and their processes when those outcomes are shown at fault. Often CEO's delegate decision to Councillors therefore evading actual accountability for decision and keeping their high paid position intact.

- Local Government need to be returned to its proper role as a department of the Western Australian Parliament, to maintain our roads and collect rubbish. All council offices need to be sold and modest office buildings brought to replace the expensive buildings we see on almost all shires. Councils have NO authority to charge residents for rates etc. Get rid of council CEO's
- Nepotism
- Lack of credentials in employees. Exec should have or be studying to Masters level
- To ensure ratepayers are treated as shareholders.
- Fraud; credit card mismanagement; drinking on the job. One rule for them one rule for us while they are frivolous with our money
- In our City I believe the council is run by the CEO and the officers. The people's voice is not heard.
- I would like there to be far more transparency on the role and interests of local government employees, especially senior staff and that they declare all relationships with applicants who have work 'in the pipeline' even work they are not directly working on. I would also like to see the agenda items for the next council meeting published at least 2 weeks prior to a council meeting, as this would allow greater time for the community and elected members to 'get on top' of an issue. As it is agendas are set by staff and sometimes agendas are overloaded.
- Bunch of crooks - need to be totally abolished and all functions returned to state departments
- There is a glaring need to provide an efficient effective timely and transparent mechanism to deal with complaints, both from ratepayers and elected members.
- I believe too much secrecy is present
- Communication and consultation needs to be clear and accessible. In a recent significant proposal for change (reinstatement of vehicular access to a mall amongst other things), the consultation document was very, very long and used terminology does not present in the vernacular. This is not meaningful consultation. It needed to have a dot point summary of what would and wouldn't change so that residents could quickly discern if they were going to be negatively impacted. The change to the road is going ahead but I have not heard a single voice in favour of it (friends, neighbours, several local chat groups).
- Councils could look at social media pages and respond to issues that are raised frequently.
- There is a blatant, unfair advantage for candidates with significant funding to print signs & posters to get the names familiar to the public. I think there should be no advertising allowed, only a bio & policy statement.
- Councils should respond to bad behaviour by dealing with the perpetrators rather than the easier 'new blanket rule '. A car park, or street parking that has attracted a few misbehaving people should not be closed to all.
- Existing or new legislation has to be enforced.
- I have needed to ring shire, re bus shelter conditions or absence of, the grass was feet high around a local bus stop and then they concreted and no shelter, in fact very free old ones and no news ones that i have

experienced. In this hot climate very very distressing. Even when the rain comes and pours down, shelter is essential.

- If there is an issue in a council that has parties on both sides with financial interests. It should be put to a council wide public vote.
- Both local and state need to abide by these values - it no good transferring power from one vested group to another
- To stop corruption bribery and vested interests
- Because councillors and senior staff are following their own agendas without any oversight. Dodging FOI and questions put at council meetings. They are out of control.
- Individuals within a Local Government Authority should not have access to funds and legislation to be used against ratepayers at their own will.
- To stop the gagging of councillors so they are able to speak freely without the threat of being reported
- To ensure voting is done properly
- My key reasons are
- Accountability
- Full Transparency
- Not acting in self interest
- Have an independent oversight without bias of having local members as stakeholders.
- The system is clearly broken and favours unelected staff over elected councillors. Case in point is the City of Stirling, where the council continues to allow the transfer of much decision making from council to the unelected staff. How is the CEO of Stirling held to account? he isn't, resulting in his long, unaccountable tenure as CEO.
- Rate pricing is not sustainable. We will soon have to start paying ours off. Way over CPR and I don't know how they keep getting away with it.
- Certain Councils May have a high population of children under 10, new immigrants, indigenous so Council might need a different strategy that is culturally appropriate.
- undemocratic election process - preferential voting is essential; abolish wards to ensure councils represent the whole electorate; abolish wards to prevent gerrymandering of candidates and results - e.g. "elected unopposed" is not possible with district wide elections; prevent standing orders being a local law - no longer relevant; ethos of LG's is "we know what is best for you" - a traditional socialist ideology; prosecutions and legal actions by LG's are hidden away under confidentiality policies so public cannot see what is happening and how much it costs; prosecutions should be reviewed by a panel before proceeding initially and for any appeal - costs can easily exceed six figures; core policies are absent in contentious functional areas; provide mechanisms for councils to scrutinise the affairs of the LG; clarify powers of independent action and support mechanisms for councils to inquire into their administration; abolish independence of LG's from ministerial control; ensure non-urgent issues before councils have adequate public notice for public assessment and input - the current 3 days notice is token BS; clarify powers and duties of the Mayor - is currently open-

ended - councils are agents of the state so Mayors are in fact just petty officials in the state system so must have defined duties; Mayor and Deputy Mayor must be elected by the district - not by Council;

- Local Government is supposed to be apolitical and Elected Members are supposed to represent those who voted them in - all I have seen over the years in the Joondalup council is a top-heavy 'club' of self-serving aspiring Liberal politicians, voting with the 'club' for self-promotion and to forge a political career - with a Mayor financially supporting and endorsing those who 'tow the line' against candidates who are genuinely wanting to make a difference.
- Seriously address the power and influence in setting policy by WALGA and LGP that controls, hampers Councils.
- Addressing bands that disadvantage Country, remote Councils.
- Resisting forced amalgamations based on population.
- One size of LG Act DOES NOT FIT ALL.
- Onerous compliance and red tape.
- It appears that the Minister for Local Government is choosing to be wilfully blind to serious probity and governance concerns permeating many LGA's. Is it the goal of government to allow LGA chaos and dysfunction to run rampant to enable the cosy relationship between LGA admins, the WAPC and unfettered developers to continue without scrutiny and oversight
- Need to make it more attractive for experienced professionals to stand for election. As a Fellow of AICD, the level of skills, experience, competency and conduct on the government, private and not for profit board I serve on is vastly superior to that which I have observed in elected members.
- Would like to see more unilateral/ uniform regulations across the local government sector. The seems to be unnecessary disparity in regulations between Councils, in particular neighbouring Councils, with very little logic and more of a "power play" with residents being the victims. Currently there are complex, duplications and under resourcing in the administration of regulations across the sector...with many Council's lacking the resources and depth of skills to administer many of the regulations to the point it becomes a very ad hoc approach resulting in an after the act/ fact result i.e. lack of pro-active involvement / inspectorial role to ensure regulations are being complied with rather than resourcing the fines and fees AFTER the non-compliance is picked up. The latter can involve innocent parties that in good faith inherited a problem that now has to be resolved. This can actually occur after the offender paid all the fees/ licenses but did not follow the due process e.g. planning and building application fees paid but Council's never followed up to ensure compliance at the time of build/ renovation.
- Corruption and fair due process for contracts and contractors
- the Narrogin shire council does not support the community they have failed to keep pace with the town's growth over the past 20 years. the town is the same as it was 20 years ago.60% of residents are now being forced to shop in other areas due to the council refusing to have more shops. no councillor should own a business. a councillor should only stand for 2 terms then resign in this way we have fresh ideas coming through.

- To encourage residents to become more engaged with their local government
- It is not needed
- Act on behalf of community
- Support and ensure that seniors are well cared for in our town - presently seniors are homeless with no affordable housing and no seniors accommodation or retirement village
- To ensure that elected members have protection, legally and financially should they have to defend their decisions against the local govt- atm this does not exist - it is up to the LGA whether it funds costs of Councillors who are defending their integrity.
- There is no accountability in local government as compared to state government- they should be abolished and replaced with a different model - too many people on the gravy train
- Many who fill roles within the Council are not experts in their field and rate payers are left to “take their word for it” when questioning procedures and report outcomes and data
- I believe a lot of the rate payers don't know where their money is spent and why the decision was made to spend it in those areas. Public don't take the time to go to council meetings to understand and then just criticise when the result isn't there way
- Local govt impose too many conditions and restrictions on land use and buildings, particularly in outer city rural areas with a few acres, e.g., City of Swan/Gidgegannup. Replacing simple structures like sheds and rainwater tanks, after the Wooroloo fire. Has been an unnecessary nightmare for many.
- Trauma-informed practices should be ingrained through government on all levels! Transparency and accountability are pivotal, especially in these times.
- The act focuses to strongly on controlling elected members but CEO's need to be held to the same level of accountability
- The current Local Govt. Act 1995 is too far outdated and seriously needs to be modernised. The community must be taken into account in all decision-making considering that it is their money that is being spent. Consultation in every sphere.
- Also the Act needs to contain a selection criterion when candidates nominate at local govt elections. When you think that there are major projects and huge sums of ratepayers' money being spent and deck ons being made by someone who only has a basic year 12 education how can this be justified? Some criteria must be applied to candidates standing for election similar to someone applying for a job. Some councillors are just clowns sitting around the council chambers playing around with ratepayers' money. It is time for a complete revamp of the LG Act.
- Transparency is needed, so no Fraudulent activities occur. Example, Local Government, giving favours to their mates.
- There should not be individual wards for EM's, as when an area has weak representation i.e. in our East Ward one EM is on maternity leave and another is on 'paid leave' over east for a prolonged duration (as okayed by the other EM's in a vote), it may just leave only one newly elected EM (who is on L plates, due to being recently elected), as per in our east ward. EM's should be able to support a cause they believe with

transparency re their EM election campaign and should not be then forced to stand out of a voting matter due to that advertising material transparency. I.e., in our case two EM's had to stand out of a recent EM vote re the Glen Iris Golf Course residential infill issue, as they had declared during the election campaign that they supported the retention of the 18-hole golf course/ green space, over the short-sighted infill of the golf course with +/- 600 houses. Why should an EM not be able to run on a transparent campaign platform? Why should their vote not count when they have shown transparency to a lga voter? This also opens up the lga voting system to being used for candidate advantage i.e., perhaps some lga candidates intentionally garner votes from unsuspecting ward ratepayers, knowing that the declaration will in reality pull votes from other legitimate candidates that are purposely not showing their hand/ playing within the current lga rules, so their vote at a later time does actually count. I.e., this point is all to do with how two CoC EM's were asked to leave the room, when voting re an EM recommendation happened recently. There should be an independent panel that sits in on random council meetings (without the council being aware of such), to see that the council meetings are being run in a fair, unbiased and transparent manner (cough, cough in the City of Cockburn's instance with one senior manager in particular who answers almost all public questions in a biased manner, even if a question has been directed elsewhere. There should be a mandatory property developer contact register, available for the ratepayer to view. Property developers should be charged a per hour rate for any consultations with the lga, as why should it be the lga ratepayer picking up this cost of the property developer's often purposely drawn out consultation, i.e. in our case over 18 months, when if the infill happens we will be losing the amenity and character of the area that we purchased into and the property developer will be making many millions of profit. It is an unfair system for the lga ratepayer, as EM's are not allowed to discuss specifics with a ratepayer until an application (in our case a scheme amendment application) is officially lodged with a lga.

- Most local government representatives seem to come from local businesses and have personal agendas to further their own interests not that of the communities.
- To ensure community gets the support they ask for. For promises to be met
- To ensure professional and competent conduct by both councillors and senior staff.
- Our representatives must represent our needs and concerns transparently.
- Because every organisation needs a shake up and without change and a refresh things go stagnant
- Administration pay themselves too much money - usually they spend freely on council and council workers and then charge way too much to residence to foot these bills. Parking fines and paid parking are examples of this
- council needs to reform the promotion and hiring of selected persons from mining and business (e.g., liberal party) where there is a conflict of interest
- Current system needs more transparency and accountability
- To hold councillors accountable for their actions
- Reverse reform too? When a decision is made in the Hills for the community why send someone from Cottesloe to override our decisions? Would the Cottesloe people invite our opinion?

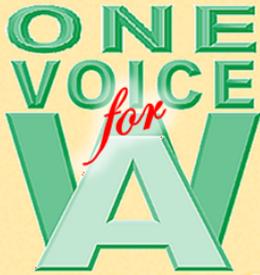
- To ensure the reality of fairness across all sectors of the community, to just those represented by Councillors
- No council should be acting for any political party and should be completely independent of it. Layers of red tape and deregulation urgently needed to avoid constant losing of the solution to the problems. Its obvious state governance only need councils to carry out mundane tasks and have removed most of their power over many decades. The system is now unwieldy and broken on many fronts with constant changing rules and employees not skilled in the basics of their own departments. The policing of many rules especially the environment is non-existent. Worked for 14 years at a council. Had 30 years of hell and lies. The wastage is appalling. I could write a book on them. All bad unfortunately. Much Much more!!!. Long overdue reform needed. Call Chris 0402127964
- We have too many small councils which should be amalgamated
- The CEO needs to be paid only what he is worth, and his position should not automatically continue if he is not serving the shire
- Local government seems to be the tool for various interest groups/people to impose personal regulatory or commercial agenda (e.g., Green activism, preferential promotion of local commercial interests, launch political careers). Many functions of local government could be better run-through a localised hub of state government (e.g. roads, rubbish)
- Unless local government Becomes completely open and transparent, I see no reason why it shouldn't be abolished.
- Always support reform for the benefit of the community, it's just a shame that State Government isn't held to the same ideals
- Too many Councillors are self-interested. A Mayor at our Council grizzled at the loss of earnings at his own business while being more than well compensated. Another has said he wants the infill in Wattle Grove South so his daughter can afford a house. These are not decisions made for the community as they totally
- ignored and misrepresented the findings of numerous surveys.
- Declare membership of any political group or concern on election notes before being selection / voting for a council
- A large number of Councillors are elected not on their own merits, nor under their own steam, but are elected as a result of businesses, supposed Chamber of Commerce, clubs and political party support and direction to their member to vote for their preferred candidate. When that Candidate is elected to LG, then the favours come calling. In CoR, we see a great number of grants given out to places such as the RKCC (Rockingham Kwinana Chamber of Commerce) where this organisation out to be funding itself via its members. Flawed grant applications are allowed to go through, and grants given. There is also a lot of grooming of new Councillors occurring. I would like to see the Diploma of Local Government completed, or at least well and truly started, within the 1st year of being a Councillor, if not as a pre-requisite to be a candidate.
- It is corrupt and we are quickly watching our bushlands being bulldozed for jam packed shoe box suburbs that do not fit the Australian dream. Too much under the table deals

- To stop them being influenced by Property Developers.
- To provide meaningful deterrent to collusion fraud and to provide support for independent visionary leadership, particularly in Regional WA
- 4.2.2 residents must have the major electoral bearing in elections not non-resident business, corporate bodies or lessees. Residents are outnumbered with the double votes from non-residents, and this is having a profound negative impact on City of Bayswater residents. We've also seen block voting and deals resulting on highly unpopular mayoral/deputy mayoral/ lucrative committee member placement, e.g., EMRC. This has to stop.
- Stop councils siding with developers
- Stop councils spinning the truth in favour of developers
- More transparency on council officers dealing with developers
- Greater oversight on the use of credit/ purchase cards. Including who uses them what they are used to purchase and the number at any one time being used. Strict criteria on what can be purchased. Strict criteria on the amount and strict limit on who has access. The review of what food and drink including alcohol is purchased by A Local Government. Review of the ethics of providing alcohol @ any function or venue.
- Councillors need to be reminded that they work for the ratepayers and are not elected to approve infrastructure so they can remind people " I built that" when i was a councillor.
- They need to have a clear vision of what is good for the community not their own interests of what they think will be good.
- To reduce ratepayers' cost and significantly increase bang for the ratepayers dollar.
- More transparency, and sadly audit is required. Some LGAs and the teams operate like fiefdoms.
- Need better people to run for council, who are able to weigh up what's good for the whole community not just pander to squeaky wheels, and be able to make balanced decisions
- it is a healthy exercise to periodically review and amend the way things are done to keep up to date and make sure everyone is represented.
- Local Government needs to be reformed as I feel it is not accountable like other institutions are.
- To remove inconsistencies and inequalities between LGA's and therefore the level of services they can provide to residents and ratepayers.
- to stop local government administrators manipulating employment numbers and status to improve their own salary
- To align criminal provisions of the corporations Act to align with currently protected provisions for Councillors - requirement for Councillors to ensure probity of information they rely on for decision making and require councils to adopt decisions made by the community at electors AGMs
- There's an underlying assumption that Administrations know best how to run a council efficiently. How can this be the case when the Chief Executive Officers, and Directors generally, are simply circulating continuously in the LG pool? Merely going from council to council? I'm not of the view LG is "unique". These senior executives appear not head-hunted by the private sector (for their leadership abilities and

achievements), or to move on from LG pool to gain outside knowledge, experience and to understand what it is to run a "company" without the means to just raise taxation to cover costs, as opposed to wrestling with market forces limiting how much they can raise cost of product or services otherwise, etc. More "training" won't address the inherent lack of knowledge in how to run large "businesses" well, and clearly LG and its champion organisations are pushing to become larger and potentially "enterprises" and maybe even eventually supply water, electricity, etc. It should be blatantly obvious, and therefore factor in to this reform, that LG's most senior executives don't represent new, innovative, cutting edge, successful, flexible, proven performers in the much more competitive and leaner world outside of these cloistered, flocked entities. How is change, therefore, possible?

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# Local Government Act Reforms Community Survey



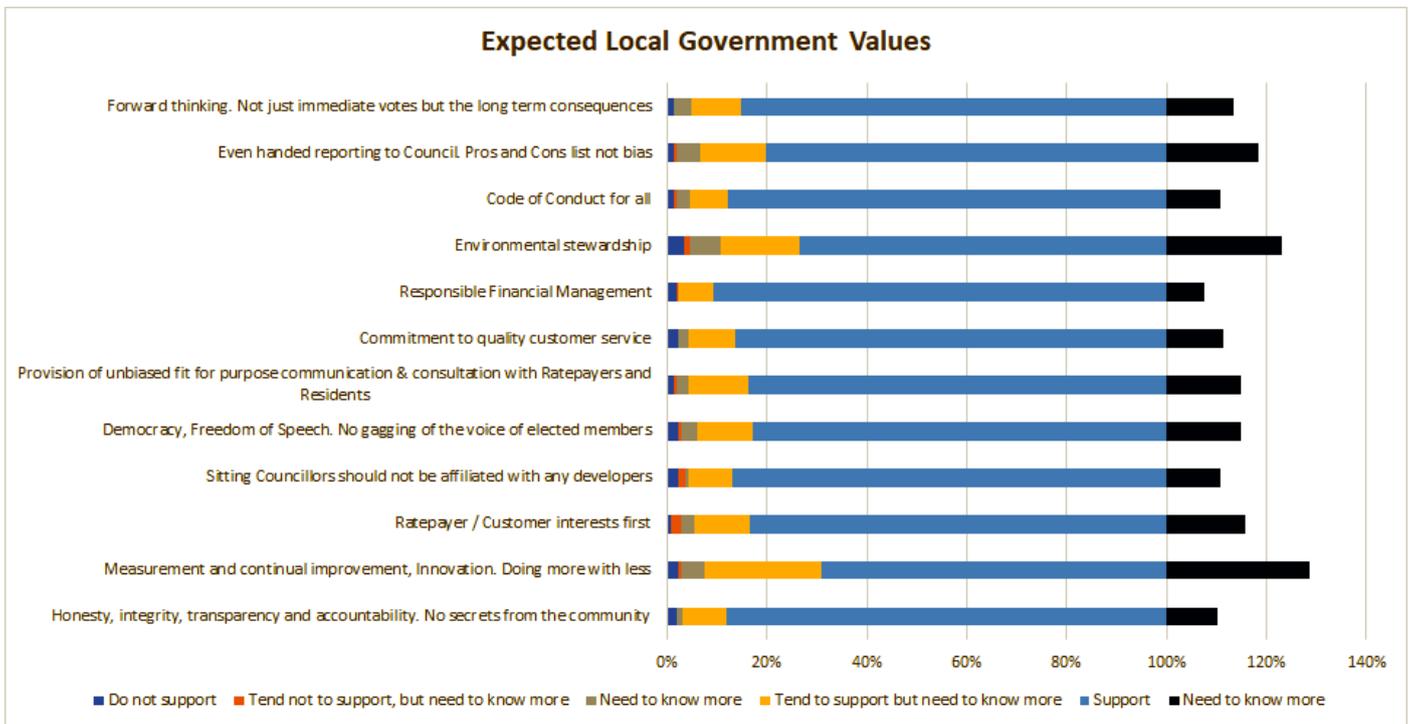
## Local Government Values (Expected)

Presented by **Local Government Reform**   
 Public group - 2.3K members  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/localgovernmentreform>

Supported by  **WARRA** WEST AUSTRALIAN  
 RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS  
 ASSOCIATION

Based on the community feedback contained within the additional comments for ““ Local Government Values (Expected)”, there is a powerful need for Councillors, Local Government Administration and Local Government Sector Stakeholders to greatly improve their values in order to meet community expectations

What Values do you expect Local Government to adopt as the result of the reform of local government?	Total Respondents	Do not support	Tend not to support, but need to know more	Need to know more	Tend to support but need to know more	Support	Need to know more
Honesty, integrity, transparency and accountability. No secrets from the community	217	2%	0%	1%	9%	88%	10%
Measurement and continual improvement, Innovation. Doing more with less	216	2%	0%	5%	24%	69%	29%
Ratepayer / Customer interests first	216	1%	2%	3%	11%	83%	16%
Sitting Councillors should not be affiliated with any developers	215	2%	1%	0%	9%	87%	11%
Democracy, Freedom of Speech. No gagging of the voice of elected members	215	2%	0%	3%	11%	83%	15%
Provision of unbiased fit for purpose communication & consultation with Ratepayers and Residents	215	1%	0%	2%	12%	84%	15%
Commitment to quality customer service	214	2%	0%	2%	9%	86%	11%
Responsible Financial Management	214	2%	0%	0%	7%	91%	7%
Environmental stewardship	212	3%	1%	6%	16%	74%	23%
Code of Conduct for all	212	1%	0%	3%	8%	88%	11%
Even handed reporting to Council. Pros and Cons list not bias	211	1%	0%	5%	13%	80%	18%
Forward thinking. Not just immediate votes but the long term consequences	210	1%	0%	3%	10%	85%	13%



### Additional Comments - What Values do you expect Local Government to adopt as the result of the reform of local government?

- Eliminate obfuscation, manipulations of facts and even lies that are often used 'to solve an issue' when caught on the hop.
- Improved local security
- Administration needs to be held accountable for their actions and behaviour. There should be a separate body to investigate service complaints. Instead of having the people who do wrong investigating themselves and not having to report how they decided they had no wrongdoing.
- Fiscal targets should under pin their work
- Not their pet projects and guessing on what next useless scheme to spend money on
- Stop planning for yesterday and plan for tomorrow
- Everything happens to late
- better communication and engagement with respective residents and groups for a better outcome moving forward.
- Adhere to the Constitution of the commonwealth of Australia act 1901
- Freedom of speech without victimisation for ratepayers who question at public council meetings
- Measurable Outcomes focused.... delivering a plan without subsequent implementation is not acceptable
- "Can do" culture rather than seeing themselves as bureaucratic gatekeepers
- To be an advocate for the residents in their district and support them when dealing with state and federal governments.
- Elected members must proactively consult with community members not just wait to be contacted. Elected members should indicate an interest in local government by attending meetings for at least 12 months or be

active in broad community issues prior to seeking election. That councillors are now paid has not necessarily meant a raise in the quality of councillors.

- Bunch of crooks - get rid of them totally
- Capped increase to rates
- I believe codes of conduct and councillor integrity both need close scrutiny and be adhered to closely by all elected members, particularly with regard to declaration of interests.
- Ratepayer/customer interests first should not be at the expense of, for e.g., safety.
- Again, both state and local need to state these values
- Best use of land for all the community
- Anything that gives the powers back to the elected members and not the CEO. Far more scrutiny of the CEO and complaints procedures against them that work. A pointless exercise having the complaint manager reviewing the boss when there has been a complaint.
- Honesty, Integrity, fair treatment.
- Sometimes 'community interest' are selfish to an area and not encompassing of the broader community and sustainable planning - community interest should be key, but not at the determinant of access for all and sustainable planning and opportunity
- Personally, I have worked for some large businesses within Perth/WA. I think the city should engage with them on how to do all of the above. BHP would be a good place to start as I know they have a great internal auditing and accountability systems.
- Ratepayers need to be able to voice their opinions at meetings, without fear or favour. (not slanderous)
- There are courses in Benchmarking in Customer Service.
- Council has to abide by their Code of Conduct, LG Act & others but they can still have robust discussion by debating matters.
- The long-term consequences should involve evaluating the risks before voting. Risks evaluation should be displayed in the Agenda and have two alternative ways to vote. All Councillors should have training in Risk Management. Just because they have been on Council for 20 years does not exclude them from training.
- Access to council staff by developers not to be allowed
- The LG Act must be amended to add LG Act s.1.3A The rights and interests of Indigenous Traditional Owners shall be recognised and the sustainable delivery of local government decision making and services must be in harmony with those laws[1].
- An LG Act objective must be added to LG Act s.1.3(1) to provide that any advice or information presented to Council is for the purpose of placing Council in a position to make fully informed decisions when it approves or authorises a matter or action. Informed consent must be defined in the LG Act to mean a permission or approval is granted in full knowledge of all the relevant factors, objections, possible consequences and the possible risks and benefits, and current and future budget impacts and that the Meeting Procedure Local Law requires that the agenda includes all relevant information provided to any or all EMs[2] outside the

Council meeting about any agenda item[3] is included in the agenda so the community knows all the information on which a Council bases its decisions.

- An amendment must be made to LG Act s.1.3(2)(b) to add the words constructive and effective so as to provide, greater constructive and effective community participation in the decisions and affairs of local government.
- LG Act Intentions
- Intentions must be amended to be characterised as objectives to ensure their high regard in interpreting and applying the LG Act provisions and must include as follows:
- Amendments must be made to LG Act s.1.3(2)(c) to enhance greater LG accountability to their communities to provide ... including a presumption that all LG records and information are a publicly accessible in a timely way unless otherwise expressly resolved by Council, a court or under any written law.
- An amendment must be made to LG Act s.1.3(2)(d) to include productive that is, to provide, more efficient, resident focussed effective and productive local government governing in the public interest of the District
- A fifth objective/intention must be added to LG Act s.1.3(2) to provide s.1.3(2)(e) ...democratic[4] principles of the Westminster system being fostered and applied[5]
- A sixth objective/intention must be added to LG Act s.1.3(2) to provide s.1.3(2)(f) ... local governments with integrity through the imposition and enforceability of high standards of ethical conduct on Council and Committee members; CEO, employees and contractors; and the DLGSC public servants assisting the Minister in administration of the LG Act framework, having highest regard and greatest weight to recommendations from external independent local government oversight bodies[6]
- A seventh objective/intention must be added to LG Act s.1.3(2) to provide LG Act s.1.3(2)(g) .. all decisions made are the correct[7] and preferable[8] decision observing community of the District aspirations, reasonableness, procedural fairness, natural justice and satisfaction of the legitimate expectations of the recipient of an administrative decision
- An eight objective/intention must be added to LG Act s.1.3(2) to provide LG Act s.1.3(2)(h) ...to ensure cost effective free and fair elections free of bias, conflicts of interest and electoral manipulation
- A ninth objective/intention must be added to LG Act s.1.3(2) to provide LG Act s.1.3(2)(i) ... to minimise biodiversity loss and cumulative habitat destruction and fragmentation, and to acknowledge the importance of adaptive planning to respond to climate change, extreme weather, wildfire events and invasive species, and to apply the precautionary principle in all decision making
- respect for the public - we are not fodder to be used to support their system; prohibit grog on LG premises before council meetings to ensure councillors have clear heads; provide a right of reply to adverse comment/jeering from the chair in public question time; councils and councillors tend to perceive themselves as deified - god kings disappeared from the earth a millennium ago
- Consistency of operation, Resist passing social trends and fads and concentrate on the core business
- stop undue influence of property developers and vested interests in the planning and development system.
- Councillors should not stand for council based on ego, self-interest or vendetta.

- Administration/Executive Management need to understand LG Hierarchy and exercise respect to council.
- CEOs need to understand Council are their employer, and that they don't run Council.
- Administration are there to serve Council and all constituents, not to create their own power base.
- Councillors honestly need to fulfil their Declaration of Office and to stop toadying to the wishes of City admin. Officers should not be given the right to covertly enter debate by being given the opportunity to comment on community Deputations with the view to negating the views of residents. Councillors should not join forces with City admin to declare war on their communities
- Elected members should NOT be developers or part of the development industry (e.g., planners, architects, real estate agents) who directly benefit from more development. Close personal relationships with developers and the development industry should be a standing declaration of interest which is included in writing at the start of each agenda
- Universal efficiencies, effectiveness and transparency across the sector e.g., standard Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics. Full accountability and standard ..and comprehensible KPI's, with understandable quantifiable metrics for quality and outcomes performance based results. This to feed into a central Local Government database to determine overall comparative performance reviews for the sector and identifying areas of excellence and areas for improvement.
- listen to the people. should not force on the people what they do not want. be pre-emptive in providing areas like more shops. E.T.C... councils should be more that parks and gardens.
- There needs to be more accountability of CEO remuneration and openness of Mayoral and CEO perks
- There is a lack of values in local government
- Councillors should be trustworthy and not have hidden agendas. Your community has elected you. You need to answer the community for your actions. Don't question why the annual civic event was changed or why was your allowance reduced. Just because you are a councillor don't demand for your entitlements, don't be greedy, be humble and accept if it is offered. You should do honorary work if your decision was to serve the community.
- Honesty might be a start
- Listening to the local people.
- Manjimup Shire is a Business. They care about making money off the peoples broken backs 😞
- Honesty integrity keeps their word
- "Local Government" includes the administration also so while I support a dramatic improvement in the honesty, integrity, transparency and accountability towards the community, this needs to be facilitated by dramatically improving the honesty, integrity, transparency and accountability from the administration towards the elected members, who are there to represent the community.
- TRANSPERENCY!
- Abusive counsellors should be fired not sanctioned by their peers
- Some integrity would be good!

- Provide easier approachable staff when discussing difficulties with other residents and living conditions in your community
- Re developers- we may lose some great people just because they know a developer! Should they maybe have to disclose all association and maybe just abstain voting on those issues
- Should stand up for the people who put them there but will not happen as the power base is now in the hands of government who are beholden to developers and those who put money into political parties thus creating the merry go round that only helps the few in the circle. Someone should be answerable to incompetence, but the onus is always on the individual who has no affordable legal system to fight it. I know I am there already and I have done nothing to know one yet victimized for it by those who are unanswerable to anyone. That is not democracy it's a dictatorship and about control.
- Keep developers off the Council.
- Council should listen to the ratepayers
- They MUST listen to the community and respond to their concerns. Our Council is not and will not do this.
- Once a project has been budget set and started, completion before starting another one. So not delayed due funds not being available
- Executive needs to realise, and have their KPI's measured against, their ability to give honest and unbiased information and recommendations to Council, and understand that Council, not the officers, make the final decision
- At the moment the only values they have are how much money they can be paid to vote yes. They need to be held accountable and honour the pledge to their role and community
- Have some integrity and get out of bed with developers
- 4.2.2 again- block voting/ deals between councillors has resulted in the mischievous blocking of motions and proposals by some ward councillors who are now silenced and cannot represent ratepayers. The Voice is the only course of action for these councillors. We have seen unbelievably destructive motions proposals and policies moved forward thus way, with residents suffering the consequences.
- Working with rate payers on preventing unnecessary destruction of environmental spaces in the name of infill
- Conservation of environment
- Transparency
- Integrity
- Whole of community benefit
- They have a duty to look ahead and look after the area for future residents - things can be protected much easier than they can be recreated once lost
- Understanding that those elected councillors are there to represent all of their community, not to represent their own interests or their mates.

- Public should be able to ask questions, of council, without fear or favour. Council meetings, should be a venue where the public can ask ANY council related question and not get it ruled out of order, because it is a criticism of the council
- Chatham House rule to apply in Council
- Model Policies to guide all local governments with consistency systems to encourage Local governments to cooperate with contiguous neighbours

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**Local Government Act Reforms  
Community Survey**

**Theme 1: Early Intervention,  
Effective Regulation and  
Stronger Penalties**

Presented by **Local Government Reform** Public group · 2.3K members  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/localgovernmentreform>

Supported by **WARRA** WEST AUSTRALIAN RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

### Theme 1: Early Intervention, Effective Regulation and Stronger Penalties

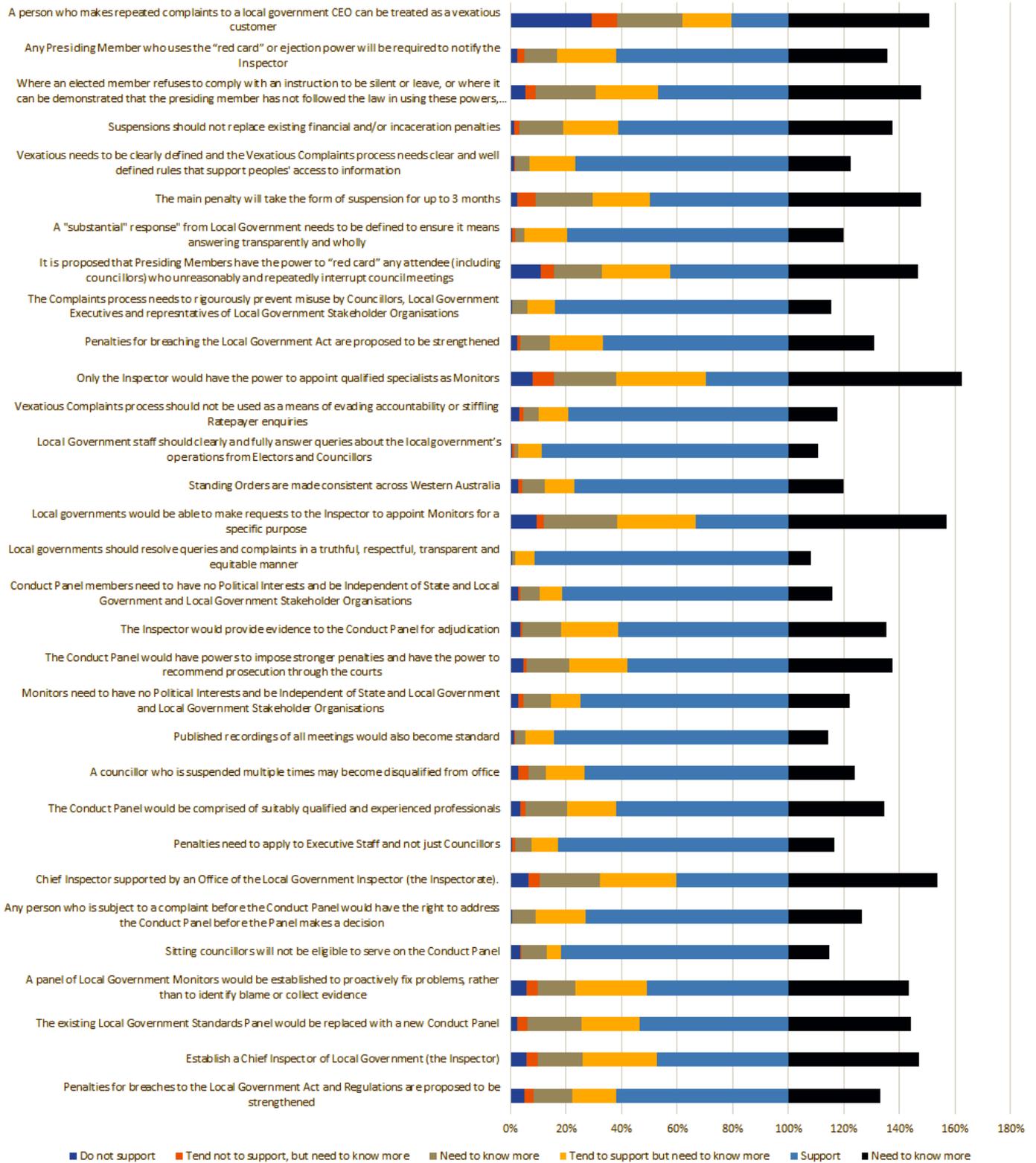
Based on the community feedback contained within the additional comments for “Theme 1: Early intervention, effective regulation and stronger penalties”, the need for ensuring whatever actions are taken, the State Government needs to ensure the outcomes do not result in more of the same.

There is significant concern that the focus these reforms is predominantly concerning Councillors conduct without recognising that administrative staff and other local government bodies contribute to the current environment and should be held to the same standards and consequences.

Theme 1: Early Intervention, Effective Regulation and Stronger Penalties	Total Respondents	Do not support	Tend not to support, but need to know more	Need to know more	Tend to support but need to know more	Support	Need to know more
Penalties for breaches to the Local Government Act and Regulations are proposed to be strengthened	179	5%	3%	14%	16%	<b>62%</b>	33%
Establish a Chief Inspector of Local Government (the Inspector)	177	6%	4%	16%	27%	<b>47%</b>	47%
The existing Local Government Standards Panel would be replaced with a new Conduct Panel	177	2%	4%	19%	21%	<b>54%</b>	44%
A panel of Local Government Monitors would be established to proactively fix problems, rather than to identify blame or collect evidence	176	6%	4%	14%	26%	<b>51%</b>	43%
Sitting councillors will not be eligible to serve on the Conduct Panel	176	3%	1%	9%	5%	<b>82%</b>	15%
Any person who is subject to a complaint before the Conduct Panel would have the right to address the Conduct Panel before the Panel makes a decision	175	1%	0%	9%	18%	73%	26%
Chief Inspector supported by an Office of the Local Government Inspector (the Inspectorate).	174	6%	4%	22%	28%	<b>40%</b>	53%
Penalties need to apply to Executive Staff and not just Councillors	174	1%	1%	6%	10%	83%	17%

Chief Inspector supported by an Office of the Local Government Inspector (the Inspectorate).	174	6%	4%	22%	28%	<b>40%</b>	53%
Published recordings of all meetings would also become standard	173	1%	1%	3%	10%	84%	14%
A councillor who is suspended multiple times may become disqualified from office	173	3%	3%	6%	14%	73%	24%
The Conduct Panel would be comprised of suitably qualified and experienced professionals	173	3%	2%	15%	18%	<b>62%</b>	35%
Monitors need to have no Political Interests and be Independent of State and Local Government and Local Government Stakeholder Organisations	172	3%	2%	10%	10%	<b>75%</b>	22%
Local governments should resolve queries and complaints in a truthful, respectful, transparent and equitable manner	171	1%	0%	1%	7%	91%	8%
Conduct Panel members need to have no Political Interests and be Independent of State and Local Government and Local Government Stakeholder Organisations	171	3%	1%	7%	8%	81%	16%
The Inspector would provide evidence to the Conduct Panel for adjudication	171	4%	1%	14%	20%	<b>61%</b>	35%
The Conduct Panel would have powers to impose stronger penalties and have the power to recommend prosecution through the courts	171	5%	1%	15%	21%	58%	37%
Local Government staff should clearly and fully answer queries about the local government's operations from Electors and Councillors	170	1%	1%	2%	8%	89%	11%
Standing Orders are made consistent across Western Australia	170	3%	1%	8%	11%	77%	20%
Local governments would be able to make requests to the Inspector to appoint Monitors for a specific purpose	170	9%	2%	26%	28%	<b>34%</b>	57%
Vexatious Complaints process should not be used as a means of evading accountability or stifling Ratepayer enquiries	169	3%	2%	5%	11%	<b>79%</b>	18%
The Complaints process needs to rigorously prevent misuse by Councillors, Local Government Executives and representatives of Local Government Stakeholder Organisations	168	1%	0%	5%	10%	84%	15%
Penalties for breaching the Local Government Act are proposed to be strengthened	168	2%	1%	11%	19%	67%	31%
Only the Inspector would have the power to appoint qualified specialists as Monitors	168	8%	8%	23%	<b>32%</b>	30%	<b>63%</b>
A "substantial" response" from Local Government needs to be defined to ensure it means answering transparently and wholly	167	1%	1%	3%	16%	80%	20%
It is proposed that Presiding Members have the power to "red card" any attendee (including councillors) who unreasonably and repeatedly interrupt council meetings	167	11%	5%	17%	25%	43%	47%
Vexatious needs to be clearly defined and the Vexatious Complaints process needs clear and well defined rules that support peoples' access to information	166	1%	1%	5%	17%	77%	22%
The main penalty will take the form of suspension for up to 3 months	166	2%	7%	20%	20%	50%	48%
Suspensions should not replace existing financial and/or incarceration penalties	165	1%	2%	16%	20%	61%	38%
Where an elected member refuses to comply with an instruction to be silent or leave, or where it can be demonstrated that the presiding member has not followed the law in using these powers, penalties can be demonstrated that the presiding member has not followed the law in using these powers, penalties can be imposed through a review by the Inspector	164	5%	4%	21%	23%	47%	48%
Any Presiding Member who uses the "red card" or ejection power will be required to notify the Inspector	163	2%	2%	12%	21%	62%	36%
A person who makes repeated complaints to a local government CEO can be treated as a vexatious customer	162	<b>29%</b>	9%	23%	18%	20%	<b>51%</b>

## Theme 1: Early Intervention, Effective Regulation & Stronger Penalties



## Additional Comments - Theme 1: Early Intervention, Effective Regulation and Stronger Penalties

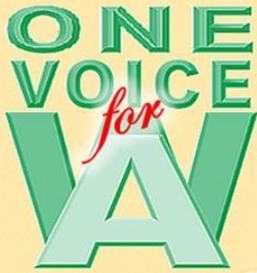
- Vexatious complaints accusations should be first sent to independent body, outside of council for determination. Before being ruled as such.
- Beware councils will use vexatious for ratepayers who ask questions at each council meeting
- Bullying of ratepayers is rife in city of Rockingham
- Sometimes we need to ask 4 or 5 times to get a reasonable answer. Non answer is common
- There needs to be legislation introduced that allow residents and ratepayers to report councils that do not answer queries that are received from residents and ratepayers.
- Provisions relating to vexatious complainants should not be introduced into law.
- Local government needs to speak to community before making major decisions like answering the current reforms. Ravensthorpe did not consult the community
- You need a fully impartial group akin to ccc
- This section too complex to fill out. We already have the local government department who should do their job. An inspector would be overwhelmed with complaints. You would need a log of inspectors. We already have the Standard Panel which is useless. Aren't these people supposedly qualified? Get rid of one lot and replace with another?
- The main penalty needs to be harsher and less warnings as they are meant to be working for the community not always being sent home for 3 months.
- The vexatious complaint while a good idea needs to be monitored, stringently, to avoid malicious use by council (Iors)
- The Public are being asked to comment on LG Reforms in the changes to the LG Act and Amin Regulations without seeing the actual wording of what has been deleted and why and what has been added. The WA Government needs to introduce a LGov Green Bill for public comment.
- In WALGA's Reform Submission Nov 2021 (1.1) It states: it is expected the Local Government Inspector would be funded by the State Government however, it is noted that the cost of the Local Government Monitors and Conduct Panel would be borne by the Local Government. The Chief Inspector of LGov, Inspector, Monitors? where has this come from????
- Needs to be LG Act general offence provision to make any departures from Act an offence
- Needs to be offence to mislead or lie to Council or Committee meetings
- Labelling a person "vexatious" is a cheap trick to extinguish rights enshrined in the WA Criminal Code and to silence objection or dissent
- Concerns here about a presiding member issuing a red card. Could become personal, targeted. Is there an opportunity for a warning by the chair or mayor in the first instance of for the presiding member to seek this from the chair, mayor?
- Repeated complainants are not necessarily vexatious

- A carrot approach is needed rather than the current heavy handed stick belting and criminal style interrogating that has occurred.
- The Town of Cambridge is not transparent or accountable. There is no mention about the role of the Mayor. Bullying Councillors and Staff are common practice from the Mayor.
- Any conduct panel must have a legal practitioner to ensure procedural fairness. Panel members should have professional qualifications, but a legal practitioner is essential to ensure ethical considerations are dealt with in accordance with law not just 'best guesses' or expediency
- Currently, the situation favours the CEO and there is little elected members can do if the CEO is part of the problem
- I am not convinced that a new inspector/monitors and / conduct panel will solve any problems or simply make a complex situation more complex making it less likely that talented people will subject themselves to public office
- I see many of these "reforms" just adding to the bureaucracy of the Local Government sector...and increasing risk avoidance within the administration corridors of individual Councils. I believe WALGA should become a State Government entity working directly with the Minister to assist in strategic policy developing and coordination, regulatory rationalisation and sector education and awareness programs across the sector and to the community.
- If someone is found at fault by negligence, they alone not the council (rate payers money) should bear the cost
- this should apply to the Narrogin shire council who are out of control and do what they want.
- Stare recordkeeping Act 2000 requirements and penalties should be reviewed in consort with local government Act particularly given that many LG records held in only electronic format in systems which May not render the records easily identifiable nor easily retrievable over time.
- Local government needs more transparency
- The Dept of Local Govt. should do a governance audit for every LGA on an annual basis and charge it to the LG. Another reason for LG Act Reform. I have seen too many breaches of regulation that are slipped under the carpet. The CAR does not capture all pieces of legislation in this respect.
- sounds like you're just creating more jobs, for lazy fuck politicians. And wasting more money as usual,
- Recordings of council meetings should be published within 24 hours on to the lga's website.
- It would not be appropriate that potential monitors and conduct panel members with political or other affiliations be automatically excluded from service, any more than it would be appropriate that potential councillors with political or other affiliations be automatically disqualified. What is required is that people in any of these positions be able to clearly recognise conflicts of interest, declare these, and demonstrate that they are able to function fairly and independently of their own personal affiliations. The same would apply to religious or other affiliations or beliefs. People holding public positions need to behave, and to be held accountable to acting in the interests of the common good, rather than according to their own personal beliefs, affiliations or relationships. It's not that difficult!

- Mayors should be voted in by the rate payers not council members
- Drugs being sold in plain sight in residential area to adults and minors. Living in a drug war zone and not taken seriously by the council.
- A “vexatious” customer may just be someone who is hurting or not being heard. How do you punish this person in their eyes they are already being punished? Some people have not been blessed with the gift of eloquence
- This is beginning to sound like more red tape. Many departments could be stripped back to one only to deal with complaints. Do we need half a dozen of each? All of which blame each other. Yes and no answers are what people want not uneducated guess work with someone who has to sign off on it and be responsible for that decision. Have gone around and around with this scenario for decades achieving NOTHING.
- Suspension for up to three months not strong enough
- It seems LG procedure is not being followed by CoB and we’ve seen councillors sneak through motions without notice which benefit developers or business. This is Improper process as other councillors are put on the spot and original proposals are never voted on. The mayor, elected by factions and deals on council, is overriding decisions. Breaches of meeting process need to be dealt with sharply and severely as they often reflect dodgy decision-making processes.
- vexatious is more likely to apply to employees than community members.
- Complaint’s process must be robust to ensure resolution not write-off a large number of wording needs proper definition heavy penalty and strong enforcements are only needed where systems are weak or driven from power huggers intervention is only required where resolution processes are absent
- If we use the appointment of Commissioners, as an example, this has been a bit haphazard an approach. Given this came from Ministers, no doubt with DLG input and maybe more, more work needs to go in to how a Monitor is selected, and some work needs to go in to ensuring that they can't just "replace" council, as they may well do, if the outcome - similar to what happened with City of Canning - is the Monitor just agrees to 99% of whatever staff propose in motions (for example), or basically agrees with much of what staff want. It is also far from clear how an Inspector/Monitors sit within the hierarchy of DLG as it is, if we will just see deckchairs shifted on the Titanic and little change to operation and outcome (look what happened to the fabled Titanic!). I could say more - this is a big section proposed for commentary by WRRRA, but I'm afraid I didn't leave sufficient time.

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# Local Government Act Reforms Community Survey



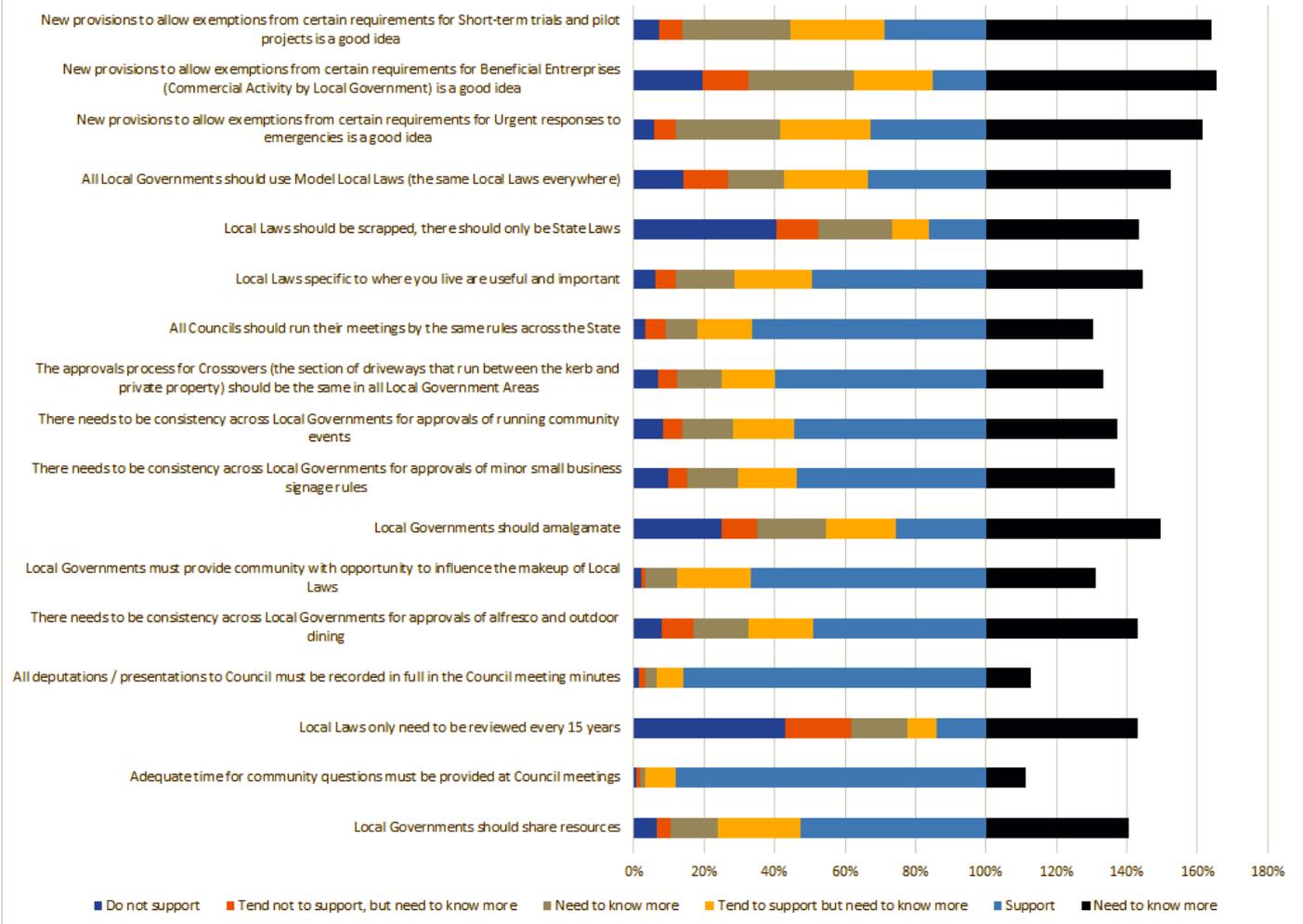
## Theme 2: Reducing Red Tape, Increasing Consistency and Simplicity

Presented by **Local Government Reform**   
 Public group · 2.3K members   
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/localgovernmentreform>

Supported by **WEST AUSTRALIAN  
RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS  
ASSOCIATION**

Theme 2: Reducing Red Tape, Increasing Consistency and Simplicity	Total Respondents	Do not support	Tend not to support, but need to know more	Need to know more	Tend to support but need to know more	Support	Need to know more
Local Governments should share resources	150	7%	4%	13%	23%	<b>53%</b>	41%
Adequate time for community questions must be provided at Council meetings	150	1%	1%	1%	9%	<b>88%</b>	11%
Local Laws only need to be reviewed every 15 years	149	<b>43%</b>	19%	16%	8%	14%	43%
All deputations / presentations to Council must be recorded in full in the Council meeting minutes	149	1%	2%	3%	7%	<b>86%</b>	13%
There needs to be consistency across Local Governments for approvals of alfresco and outdoor dining	147	8%	9%	16%	18%	<b>49%</b>	43%
Local Governments must provide community with opportunity to influence the makeup of Local Laws	147	2%	1%	9%	21%	<b>67%</b>	31%
Local Governments should amalgamate	145	<b>25%</b>	10%	19%	20%	<b>26%</b>	50%
There needs to be consistency across Local Governments for approvals of minor small business signage rules	145	10%	6%	14%	17%	<b>54%</b>	37%
There needs to be consistency across Local Governments for approvals of running community events	145	8%	6%	14%	17%	<b>54%</b>	37%
The approvals process for Crossovers (the section of driveways that run between the kerb and private property) should be the same in all Local Government Areas	145	7%	6%	12%	15%	<b>60%</b>	33%
All Councils should run their meetings by the same rules across the State	145	3%	6%	9%	16%	<b>66%</b>	30%
Local Laws specific to where you live are useful and important	144	6%	6%	17%	22%	<b>49%</b>	44%
Local Laws should be scrapped, there should only be State Laws	143	<b>41%</b>	12%	21%	10%	16%	43%
All Local Governments should use Model Local Laws (the same Local Laws everywhere)	141	14%	13%	16%	24%	<b>33%</b>	52%
New provisions to allow exemptions from certain requirements for Urgent responses to emergencies is a good idea	140	6%	6%	<b>29%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>33%</b>	61%
New provisions to allow exemptions from certain requirements for Beneficial Enterprises (Commercial Activity by Local Government) is a good idea	139	19%	13%	<b>30%</b>	22%	15%	65%
New provisions to allow exemptions from certain requirements for Short-term trials and pilot projects is a good idea	139	7%	6%	<b>31%</b>	27%	29%	64%

## Theme 2: Reducing Red Tap, Increasing Consistency & Simplicity



### Additional Comments - Theme 2: Reducing Red Tape, Increasing Consistency and Simplicity

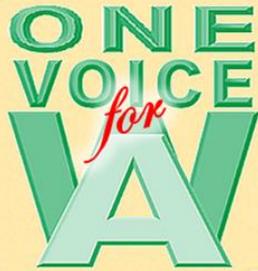
- Questions should be answered, instead of just a reply given which does not answer the question. Which is common at meetings I have attended
- Local law review should happen more often than 15 years based on the ever-changing demographics around us. Govt should move quicker and keep up with the changing times far better.
- Very good ideas. Some further discussion needs to take place on local issues
- Recently questions from the public were reduced from three to two without any explanation. An arbitrary decision on the part of Shire President and CEO? Some speakers with whom the President has sympathy have been allowed to use question / comment time for 20mins plus, others cut off at the 3 mins.
- There is no proof of emails or letters in minutes
- My experience with Cockburn council is it a shambles and are not represent the community - what is happening in glen iris golf course estate reeks of self-interest and not the community whilst state government wines and dines with developers
- Local Laws should be reviewed sooner than 15 years and should be done every 4 years as part of the Governance process.

- Councils invest significant resources each year in the delivery of a range of services to their communities. Effective performance reporting is essential for assuring Councils are accountable to local residents and ratepayers, and for demonstrating value-for-money, achievement of objectives and the delivery of good quality services. Source: Victorian Auditor General Report (18 April 2012).
- Don't use amalgamate word, use boundary resetting, which I endorse
- Employee Codes of Conduct must have mandatory establishment date, and be enforced the same way as Em Code of Conduct enforced, by Regulations with penalties, and employee who commit minor misconduct go to Conduct Panel
- Conduct Panel Appointments made by State Administrative Tribunal with SAT natural justice rules
- There is a distinct difference between regional and metro LGA's and this needs to be acknowledged
- If everything is consistent why have multiple local governments?
- the needs of a rural/suburban/urban community could be very different so some of the suggestions for a one size fits all may cause more angst than it solves
- actually need to remove the barriers to high-quality councillors and CEOs from outside local government to get involved and solve these problems for their communities - top-down from state government seems like using a sledgehammer to crack a walnut
- The issue of "unique" situations needs to be substantiated in respect to the cause of gaining uniformity across the sector. Councils need to be encouraged to work more effectively and efficiently and better adopt and adapt to new technology that will assist them in better fulfilling and delivering the best VALUE for money outcomes for ratepayers and the public. These would include issues around duplication of services with Commonwealth and State counterparts, Videoing Council meeting as a legally binding recording backup to transcripts of Council meetings and publishing them on their respective web sites, Working together (economies of scale) in seeking procurement tenders / contracts outcomes for goods, services (incl maintenance services) that deliver VALUE for money outcomes.
- Some LGs are very large in area and small in terms of staff. Already many in isolated areas struggle to conform, and frequently don't, with various state laws and policies and skills of people in offices and on council varies considerably. This needs to be kept in mind when trying to standardize laws and processes as desirable as they might be.
- Increased Councillor education in conflicts of interest and when and how they are to be applied. Most instances they rely on governance administration to provide this advice, and this should not be the case. Agree that is why there is governance administration, but Councillors have a responsibility and therefore need to make their own decisions and not rely on advice from the administration.
- This is a bullshit survey (yep, we did not edit the responses) 😊
- Recognition of the size and location of Local Government must be acknowledged in legislation
- de regulation on a big scale as stated earlier. Simple is best. yes and no is the language everyone understands

- I'm also a ratepayer in Narrogin and any reduction of funding or resources to regional council alarms me. Regional councils have very different priorities- roads being a major expense in contrast with metro councils. Any reform encouraging homogeneous LG law needs to take the bush into account. They are very very different to city councils.
- Consistency for the sake of consistency is not a good idea - rules that make sense in the city don't make sense in rural areas. Most people only live in one council, and it doesn't matter much if the rules are slightly different from one place to another. It might be annoying for some businesses that have to deal with lots of councils, but they should be able to manage it
- Model Policy should drive consistency across all local governments
- All rules regulations or local laws should be voted on and approved by the community not by council
- guidelines should identify what cannot be done and not what is allowable neighbours should (by majority vote) determine street development approvals
- LG sharing resources, including possible CEOs. Would that largely apply to regional councils or shires/country councils? This is an interesting area to contemplate. Yes, I think councils need to be amalgamated to reduce number (Carey did say, when he addressed WALGA online, re reforms, that compulsory voting may also come in if there were 50% less councils, although this is a note, I am making not a primary response to amalgamation benefits).

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# Local Government Act Reforms Community Survey



## Theme 3: Greater Transparency & Accountability

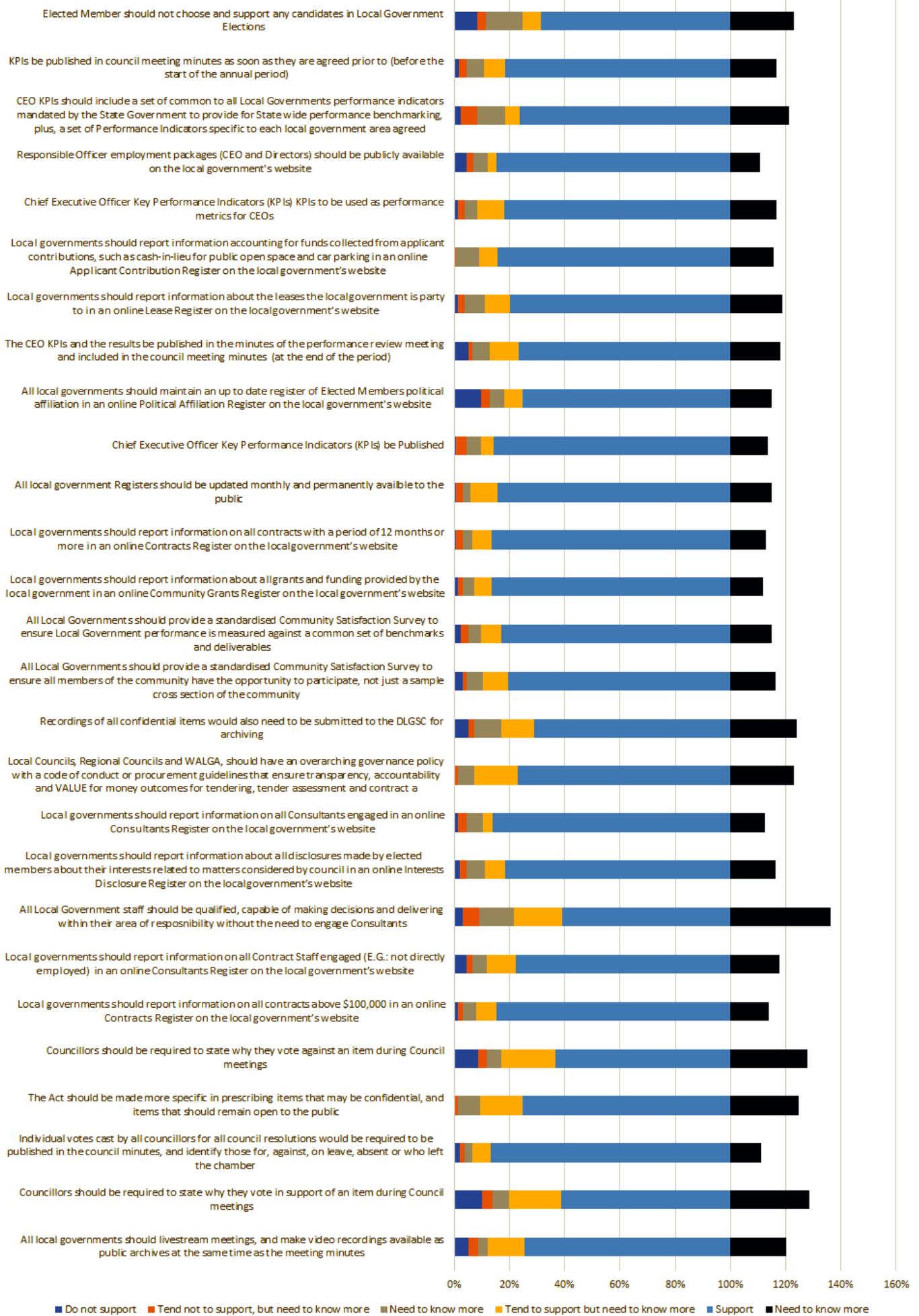
Presented by **Local Government Reform**   
 Public group · 2.3K members  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/localgovernmentreform>

Supported by  **WEST AUSTRALIAN RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION**

Theme 3: Greater Transparency & Accountability	Total Respondents	Do not support	Tend not to support, but need to know more	Need to know more	Tend to support but need to know more	Support	Need to know more
All local governments should livestream meetings, and make video recordings available as public archives at the same time as the meeting minutes	138	5%	4%	4%	13%	<b>75%</b>	20%
Councillors should be required to state why they vote in support of an item during Council meetings	137	10%	4%	6%	19%	<b>61%</b>	28%
Individual votes cast by all councillors for all council resolutions would be required to be published in the council minutes, and identify those for, against, on leave, absent or who left the chamber	137	2%	1%	3%	7%	<b>87%</b>	11%
The Act should be made more specific in prescribing items that may be confidential, and items that should remain open to the public	<b>137</b>	0%	1%	8%	15%	<b>75%</b>	25%
Councillors should be required to state why they vote against an item during Council meetings	136	9%	3%	5%	20%	<b>63%</b>	28%
Local governments should report information on all contracts above \$100,000 in an online Contracts Register on the local government's website	<b>136</b>	1%	1%	5%	7%	<b>85%</b>	14%
Local governments should report information on all Contract Staff engaged (E.G.: not directly employed) in an online Consultants Register on the local government's website	135	4%	2%	5%	10%	<b>78%</b>	18%
All Local Government staff should be qualified, capable of making decisions and delivering within their area of responsibility without the need to engage Consultants	135	3%	6%	13%	18%	<b>61%</b>	36%
Local governments should report information about all disclosures made by elected members about their interests related to matters considered by council in an online Interests Disclosure Register on the local government's website	135	2%	2%	7%	7%	<b>81%</b>	16%
Local governments should report information on all Consultants engaged in an online Consultants Register on the local government's website	<b>135</b>	1%	3%	6%	4%	<b>86%</b>	13%
Local Councils, Regional Councils and WALGA, should have an overarching governance policy with a code of conduct or procurement guidelines that ensure transparency, accountability and VALUE for money outcomes for tendering, tender assessment and contract awarding with, ongoing contract management performance assessments open to independent audits	<b>135</b>	0%	1%	6%	16%	<b>77%</b>	23%

Recordings of all confidential items would also need to be submitted to the DLGSC for archiving	7	5%	2%	10%	12%	<b>71%</b>	24%
All Local Governments should provide a standardised Community Satisfaction Survey to ensure all members of the community have the opportunity to participate, not just a sample cross section of the community	4	3%	1%	6%	9%	<b>81%</b>	16%
All Local Governments should provide a standardised Community Satisfaction Survey to ensure Local Government performance is measured against a common set of benchmarks and deliverables	3	2%	3%	4%	7%	<b>83%</b>	15%
Local governments should report information about all grants and funding provided by the local government in an online Community Grants Register on the local government's website	2	1%	1%	4%	6%	<b>87%</b>	12%
Local governments should report information on all contracts with a period of 12 months or more in an online Contracts Register on the local government's website	1	1%	2%	4%	7%	<b>87%</b>	13%
All local government Registers should be updated monthly and permanently available to the public	1	1%	2%	3%	10%	<b>84%</b>	15%
Chief Executive Officer Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) be Published	1	1%	4%	5%	4%	<b>86%</b>	13%
All local governments should maintain an up to date register of Elected Members political affiliation in an online Political Affiliation Register on the local government's website	13	10%	3%	5%	7%	<b>75%</b>	15%
The CEO KPIs and the results be published in the minutes of the performance review meeting and included in the council meeting minutes (at the end of the period)	7	5%	2%	6%	11%	<b>77%</b>	18%
Local governments should report information about the leases the local government is party to in an online Lease Register on the local government's website	2	2%	2%	8%	9%	<b>80%</b>	19%
Local governments should report information accounting for funds collected from applicant contributions, such as cash-in-lieu for public open space and car parking in an online Applicant Contribution Register on the local government's website	0	0%	1%	8%	7%	<b>84%</b>	16%
Chief Executive Officer Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) KPIs to be used as performance metrics for CEOs	2	2%	2%	5%	10%	<b>82%</b>	17%
Responsible Officer employment packages (CEO and Directors) should be publicly available on the local government's website	6	5%	2%	5%	3%	<b>85%</b>	11%
CEO KPIs should include a set of common to all Local Governments performance indicators mandated by the State Government to provide for State wide performance benchmarking, plus, a set of Performance Indicators specific to each local government area agreed by the Council and the CEO	3	2%	6%	10%	5%	<b>76%</b>	21%
KPIs be published in council meeting minutes as soon as they are agreed prior to (before the start of the annual period)	2	2%	3%	6%	8%	<b>82%</b>	17%
Elected Member should not choose and support any candidates in Local Government Elections	11	8%	3%	13%	7%	<b>68%</b>	23%

### Theme 3: Greater Transparency & Accountability



### Additional Comments - Theme 3: Greater Transparency & Accountability

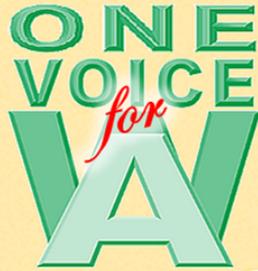
- Scrap WALGA preferred supplier program
- We've been asking for this at Rockingham for some years
- It's all secret squirrels' business
- Community Satisfaction Survey to ensure Local Government performance is offered to 75% of the community to participate in (online survey).
- Information that is required to be included in online registers should remain on websites for at least 10 years.
- I think much more attention needs to be given to the role of local government staff and the connections they may have which may cloud their judgement with regard to what is best for communities, especially as relates to business development and environmental protection.
- Councillors and CEOs are hiding behind the current rules. They are getting away with too much
- Both state and local
- Question Time & Deputations should be included in Livestream.
- WALGA should employ certified trainers.
- Community Surveys should be done YEARLY as it helps Council identify which of its services or activities need to be improved. It also provides an insight into the Community view of Council's overall performance. Budgets can be remedied or lowered from the results of the YEARLY Community Survey?
- CEO and Head Executives base rate of pay should also include itemised allowances to give the full cost of employment and be published in their Annual Report.
- All Grade 1-2 Councils should livestream ALL of their Council meetings and their internal policy should reflect this. City Of Rockingham has a policy whereby they do not record Question Time even though when it was put out to public comment 10 replies came back saying it was a great idea.
- State Records not DLGSC for confidential records
- The Act is silent about document confidentiality, and this should be remedied, only covers meeting confidentiality
- EMs voting against a resolution should be entitled to have say 200 words why they vote against recorded in minutes
- New Registers should include:
  - Minor Breach Register must include Serious Breaches
  - Public rezoning, subdivision and development applications register
  - Third Party Meetings Register, where third party any person meeting with employees or EMs
  - Lobbyists Register
  - Political Party Affiliation Register
  - Employee Secondary Employment Register
  - WAEC/Returning Officer Delegations

- Offences Register
- Employee Minor Misconduct Register
- Contractors, Consultants Register
- CEOs and Directors/Managers salaries/packages should be published.
- These points are very prescriptive e.g. "ALL LGs should" - much better to be framed in e.g. LGs are encouraged... or Best practice is .... or LGs are strongly encouraged to allow flexibility and a focus on performance (not compliance)
- Many of these "attributes" are standard in the State government sector and I see no reason why this should not apply in the Local government sector... it will become onerous, even with technology applications and will "organically" stimulate the move to rationalising smaller local government councils and forming more viable and sustainable local government entities for the future.
- How and who processes tenders for council contracts
- Council Minutes should report what each elected member says in debates including why they vote a certain way. The council officers' reports in agendas should be attachments to the minutes and not the main content of the particular minutes
- Public should be able to attend committee meetings and make representations.
- Agendas and minutes should be published for what City of Joondalup calls "Strategy Sessions". Currently even elected members can't let electors know what is discussed and voted on in Strategy Sessions, thus preventing any input by electors.
- It is already inherently improper for the office of a local government to be used for any purpose outside its prescribed roles including choosing candidates to endorse / promote. KPI of CEO's should be known and set by councils and not consultants or WALGA
- Registration of political affiliations. The absence of a formal political affiliation does not mean that an individual does not subscribe to a particular belief system. Thus, to publish details of those with formal political affiliations may incorrectly imply that others do not subscribe to those political ideologies. Also, it is not only political affiliations which influence the decisions of decision makers. If political affiliations are to be registered, religious affiliations should also be registered, along with other ideologies if it is likely that those decision makers are incapable of separating their decisions from their personal ideologies.
- Prior to development approval of any religious or other building all submissions should be made available to ratepayers
- Not all councils are the same diverse by size number of residents culture etc etc we surely don't want to unify some legislation so that Fremantle looks the same as Joondalup and Kalamunda looks the same as Cottesloe
- Pretty obvious to all that transparency does not exist. We gave Carmen Lawrence in the nineties the words Accountability and transparency and still waiting to see either from the bottom to the top.

- Councillors should provide a truthful reason as to why they didn't vote  
Total transparency
- The difference between regional and metro councils do not allow for "blanket ruling" or standardisation about performance or objectivity. Value for money in regions must be balanced heavily towards developing a local economy and supporting the regional business groups rather than price
- Consultants feed off councils
- It's not very sensible to councils to employ experts on everything instead of being able to pick up consultants as they need the expertise, where exactly is the money going to come from?
- KPIs must measure failures - i.e. complaints, performance failure reports from community etc
- Councillors should be provided with a shared Ward office and a support staffer
- Community must approve appointment of CEO.
- Applications for and restrictions on use of public space should only apply to commercial or private functions
- Chatham House rule should apply to Council and committees
- multiple Compulsory community committees be established across all LGs (Part 5 of the Act)
- We need an additional element to the recording, archiving, storing and making available to public considerations of livestreaming. Yes, definitely, all recordings should be both audio and video (it is much more telling in the disposition of how council meetings are run, people are treated and how elected members cope and actually engage in "robust" discussion or otherwise - it would also make plain if the Chair is doing a professional job or conducting oneself subjectively, in a bullying fashion, attempting to influence or dominate). The missing link would be syncing motions to where they are debated on the archived (and hopefully downloadable) version of the council meet. Victoria Park does that. It is the ultimate example: livestream audio/video, archive copy, downloadable and motions synced to where they appear in meeting recording. Want to engage the community? Don't force them to trawl through ridiculous YouTube audio and/or video offerings of council meets (clumsy in manoeuvrability). Give them entertaining VISION, with strong content guides. Make it extremely easy to navigate. It goes without saying the Agendas would need to accompany the recordings, and they do at Vic Park, so, do-able!

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# Local Government Act Reforms Community Survey



## Theme 4: Stronger Local Democracy and Community Engagement

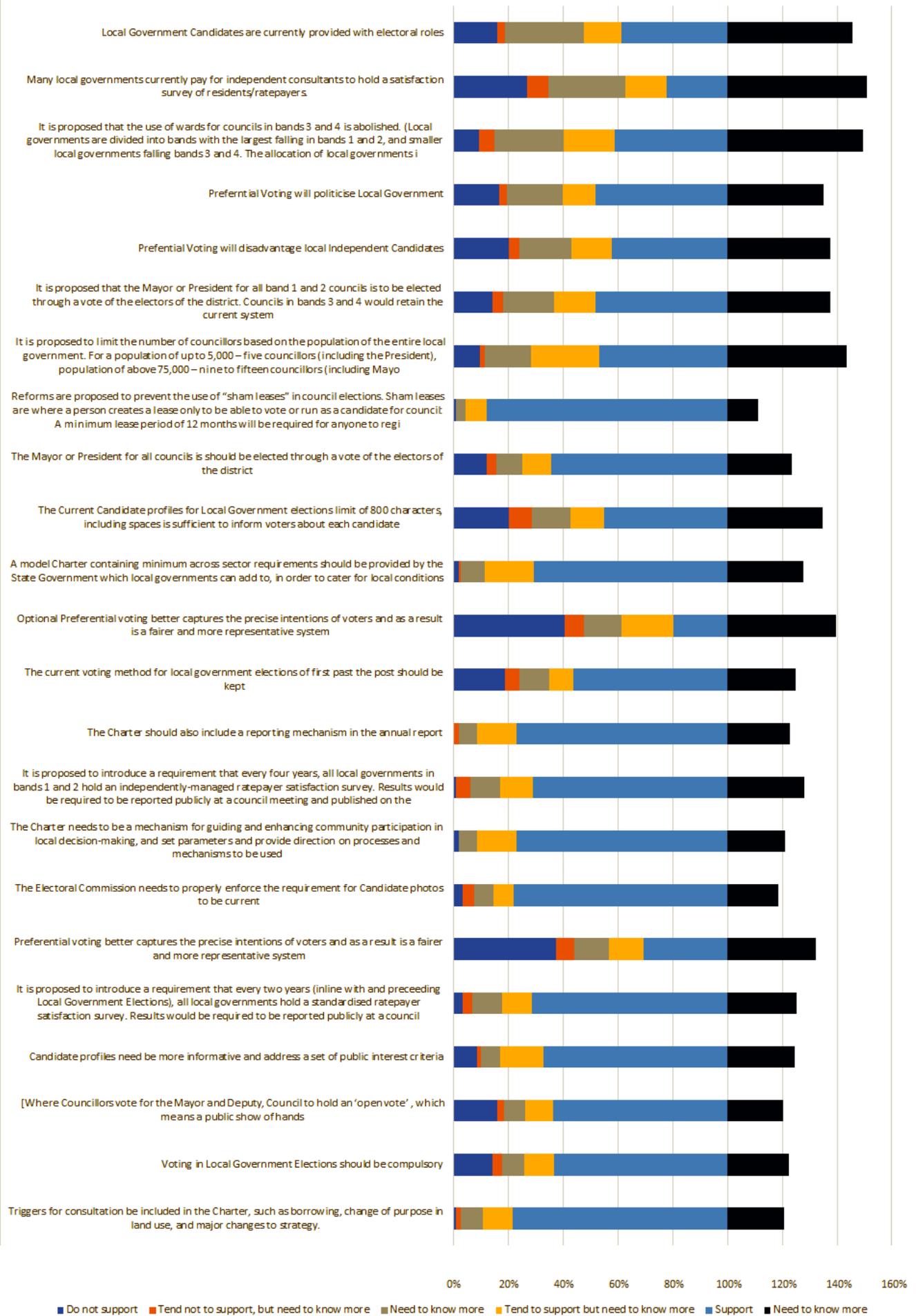
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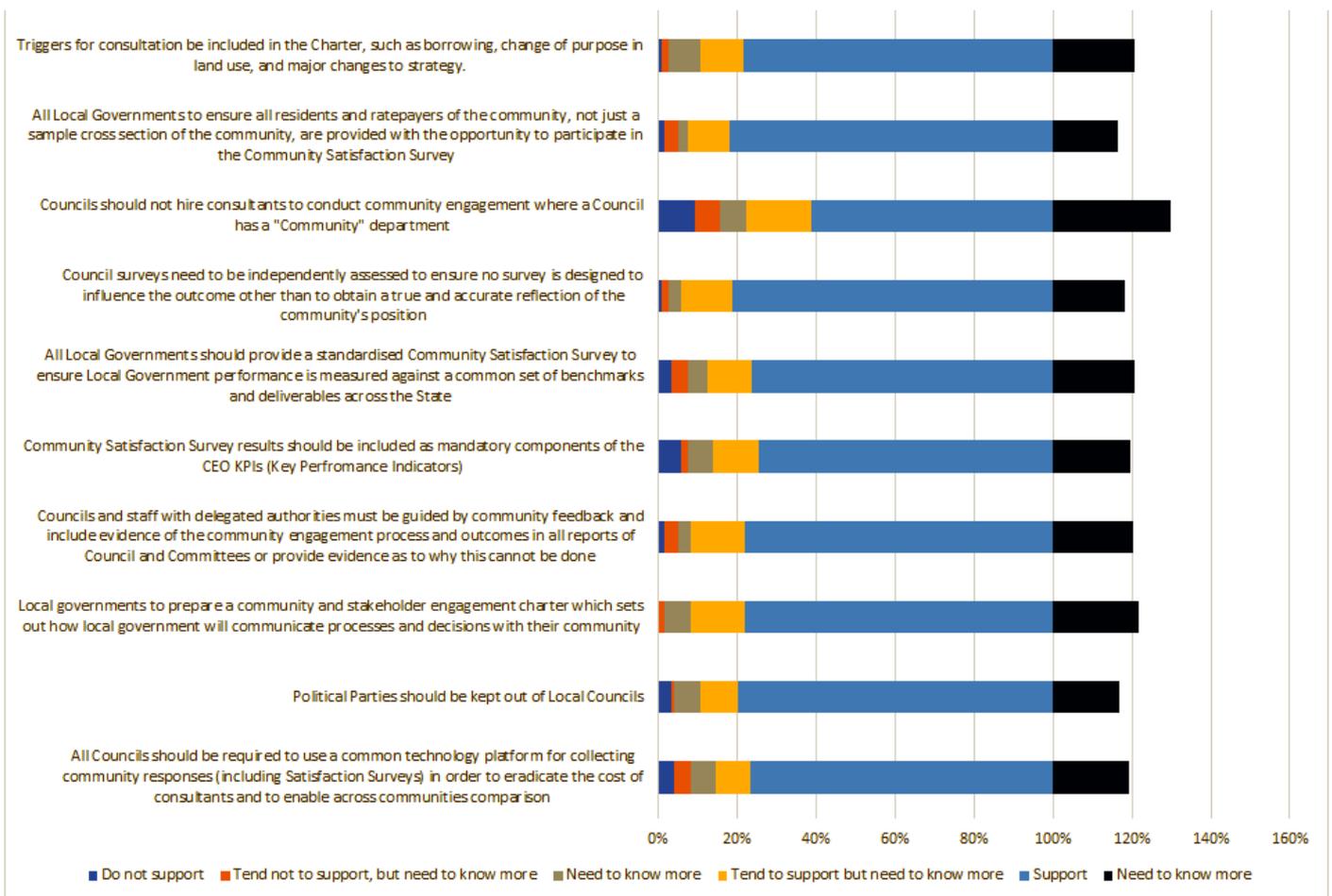
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Theme 4: Stronger Local Democracy and Community Engagement	Total Respondents	Do not support	Tend not to support, but need to know more	Need to know more	Tend to support but need to know more	Support	Need to know more
All Councils should be required to use a common technology platform for collecting community responses (including Satisfaction Surveys) in order to eradicate the cost of consultants and to enable across communities comparison	124	4%	4%	6%	9%	<b>77%</b>	19%
Political Parties should be kept out of Local Councils	124	3%	1%	6%	10%	<b>80%</b>	17%
Local governments to prepare a community and stakeholder engagement charter which sets out how local government will communicate processes and decisions with their community	124	0%	2%	6%	14%	<b>78%</b>	22%
Councils and staff with delegated authorities must be guided by community feedback and include evidence of the community engagement process and outcomes in all reports of Council and Committees or provide evidence as to why this cannot be done	123	2%	3%	3%	14%	<b>78%</b>	20%
Community Satisfaction Survey results should be included as mandatory components of the CEO KPIs (Key Performance Indicators)	122	6%	2%	7%	11%	<b>75%</b>	20%
All Local Governments should provide a standardised Community Satisfaction Survey to ensure Local Government performance is measured against a common set of benchmarks and deliverables across the State	122	3%	4%	5%	11%	<b>76%</b>	20%
Council surveys need to be independently assessed to ensure no survey is designed to influence the outcome other than to obtain a true and accurate reflection of the community's position	122	1%	2%	3%	13%	<b>81%</b>	18%
Councils should not hire consultants to conduct community engagement where a Council has a "Community" department	121	9%	7%	7%	17%	<b>61%</b>	30%
All Local Governments to ensure all residents and ratepayers of the community, not just a sample cross section of the community, are provided with the opportunity to participate in the Community Satisfaction Survey	121	2%	3%	2%	11%	<b>82%</b>	17%
Triggers for consultation be included in the Charter, such as borrowing, change of purpose in land use, and major changes to strategy.	121	1%	2%	8%	11%	<b>79%</b>	21%
Voting in Local Government Elections should be compulsory	120	14%	3%	8%	11%	<b>63%</b>	23%

[Where Councillors vote for the Mayor and Deputy, Council to hold an 'open vote', which means a public show of hands	19	16%	3%	8%	10%	64%	20%
Candidate profiles need be more informative and address a set of public interest criteria	10	8%	2%	7%	16%	67%	24%
It is proposed to introduce a requirement that every two years (inline with and preceeding Local Government Elections), all local governments hold a standardised ratepayer satisfaction survey. Results would be required to be reported publicly at a council meeting and published on the local government's website prior to the opening of Polls.	4	3%	3%	11%	11%	71%	25%
Preferential voting better captures the precise intentions of voters and as a result is a fairer and more representative system	44	37%	7%	13%	13%	31%	32%
The Electoral Commission needs to properly enforce the requirement for Candidate photos to be current	4	3%	4%	7%	8%	78%	19%
The Charter needs to be a mechanism for guiding and enhancing community participation in local decision-making, and set parameters and provide direction on processes and mechanisms to be used	2	2%	0%	7%	14%	77%	21%
It is proposed to introduce a requirement that every four years, all local governments in bands 1 and 2 hold an independently-managed ratepayer satisfaction survey. Results would be required to be reported publicly at a council meeting and published on the local government's website	1	1%	5%	11%	12%	71%	28%
The Charter should also include a reporting mechanism in the annual report	0	0%	2%	7%	14%	77%	23%
The current voting method for local government elections of first past the post should be kept	22	19%	5%	11%	9%	56%	25%
Optional Preferential voting better captures the precise intentions of voters and as a result is a fairer and more representative system	47	41%	7%	14%	19%	20%	40%
A model Charter containing minimum across sector requirements should be provided by the State Government which local governments can add to, in order to cater for local conditions	2	2%	1%	9%	18%	71%	28%
The Current Candidate profiles for Local Government elections limit of 800 characters, including spaces is sufficient to inform voters about each candidate	23	20%	9%	14%	12%	45%	35%
The Mayor or President for all councils is should be elected through a vote of the electors of the district	14	12%	3%	10%	10%	64%	23%
Reforms are proposed to prevent the use of "sham leases" in council elections. Sham leases are where a person creates a lease only to be able to vote or run as a candidate for council: A minimum lease period of 12 months will be required for anyone to register a person to vote or run for council.	1	1%	0%	3%	8%	88%	11%
It is proposed to limit the number of councillors based on the population of the entire local government. For a population of up to 5,000 – five councillors (including the President), population of above 75,000 – nine to fifteen councillors (including Mayor)	11	10%	2%	17%	25%	47%	43%
It is proposed that the Mayor or President for all band 1 and 2 councils is to be elected through a vote of the electors of the district. Councils in bands 3 and 4 would retain the current system	16	14%	4%	19%	15%	48%	38%
Preferential Voting will disadvantage local Independent Candidates	22	20%	4%	19%	15%	42%	38%
Preferential Voting will politicise Local Government	18	17%	3%	20%	12%	48%	35%
It is proposed that the use of wards for councils in bands 3 and 4 is abolished. (Local governments are divided into bands with the largest falling in bands 1 and 2, and smaller local governments falling bands 3 and 4. The allocation of local governments into bands is determined by The Salaries and Allowances Tribunal.)	10	9%	6%	25%	19%	41%	50%
Many local governments currently pay for independent consultants to hold a satisfaction survey of residents/ratepayers.	28	27%	8%	28%	15%	22%	51%
Local Government Candidates are currently provided with electoral roles	16	16%	3%	29%	14%	39%	46%

## Theme 4: Stronger Democracy & Community Engagement





#### Additional Comments - Theme 4: Stronger Local Democracy and Community Engagement

- Preferential voting is the way to go
- The LG act should detail the minimum standard requirements for community engagement. The model community charter can still be prepared; however, this would include additional provisions that would allow councils to achieve "best practice" community engagement.
- It is a fact that all residents in the area that will be affected by a rezoning of land to urban have not been given opportunity of completing a survey. Surveys provided by LG are worded as such to obtain the answers they want. Even when a survey is completed the peoples voice is not listened to.
- Affiliation with local business should not be permitted
- Candidates should provide police clearance and working with children check
- before delegated authority is used, it should be out for discussion by community
- Councils must develop at Community Engagement Strategy first before a developing a Community Engagement Charter
- Community Surveys helps Council identify which of its services or activities need to be improved. It provides insight into the community's view Council's overall performance with community consultation. The surveys must be done YEARLY so if there is a downgrade in a service delivery Council is able to move quickly to rectify to the situation. If surveys are done every 4 years, it is too late.

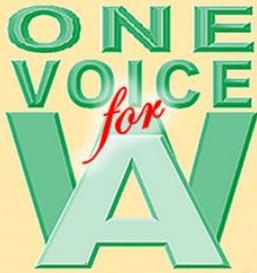
- The WA Dept of Local Government should adopt Victoria's Qualitative Bench marking in LG Community Surveys. Refer 2021 Local Government
- Community Satisfaction Survey - State Wide Report. Co-ordinated by the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions on behalf of Victorian Councils.
- If the Government reduces the number of Councillors in small Councils, they run the risk of having a quorum.
- Number of employees should also be limited
- Compulsory optional preferential voting by residents only, every four years all in all out, no wards
- There is no current requirement to use current photo for candidates but there should be
- Councils need to review and control contracts with WAEC
- Councils must treat electoral offences as strict liability offences
- Need offence of candidates misusing electoral rolls
- Employees should have nothing to do with LG elections, they have serious conflicts of interest
- No costs ordered in Court of Disputed Returns unless vexatious litigant, and give appeal rights from CDR decision
- It is proposed that the Mayor or President for ALL councils is to be elected through a vote of the electors of the whole district.
- no use of petitions. band 1-2 must have wards
- The voting for a Mayor should be with the Councillors and not put out to the public. This way the Mayor would have experience with Local Government
- Where do I start ...
- NO proportional representation - increases the risk of shady deals - reduces transparency - takes away the voters right and ability to give the vote to the candidate they want to vote for. (might work ok in federal and state elections where votes are more about the party than the individual)
- All councillors should elect the mayor by an open vote - ensures that councils support (or change the mayor) not undermine - where electors vote for mayor some councillors start their campaign for mayor as soon as the vote closes at the previous election so we have to put up with years of campaigning when an individual's participation or lack of it is based on positioning themselves for election
- suggest the numbers of councillors is reduced further
- wards encourage representation of geographical based groups rather than representing the entire electorate - perhaps they should be limited to tier 1 councils
- 800 characters is fine (voters can look on social medial e.g. LinkedIn / Facebook if they want to know more - any extra on a voting paper will reduce the number of people who actually read it
- CAN WE HAVE ONLINE VOTING ..
- Community engagement has some importance, but it is not one of the main causes of local government failures. Never forget that not many people actually care about local government.
- There is a need to tighten up of democratic principles in the choice of candidates and the electoral process itself. I am not convinced that compulsory voting is necessary as it may tend to encourage party politics over

community participation in the sector ..resulting in local government being an extension of State Government policy priorities over community priorities.

- It is fine to use independent consultants for community consultation, but the scope of the consultation and the results required are set down by the writer. The scope of the consultation is written by a council officer under the direction of the CEO. The scope determines the end result.
- It's our rates
- Community Satisfaction surveys need to be competently performed and representative. This may be more likely if they are contracted to outside agencies. Sometimes more representative outcomes will be achieved by surveying a cross-section of the community rather than inviting all to comment, which results in bias arising from mobilisation of more vocal sections of the community.
- All sounds good but whether workable or not i would question as state do not want most of this and have spent years eroding these very principles
- Very remote communities cannot possibly achieve arbitrary engagement targets. Statistically relevant can be impossible to achieve when the majority of a community is FASD affected or similarly not competent to hold an opinion on what a role of Local Government actually is.
- Last election random unknown candidates were probably funded and supported by ambitious councillors. (addressed electoral material was posted) Electors need to vote 1 for their candidate because our mayor only got less than half of all votes and business franchise voting probably got the deputy mayor in again. Candidates should be known to electors and addresses should not be made available to them.
- there should be a limit on the number of terms that a particular councillor can be elected. once they are in too long, they become jaded and tend to focus on their own interests. i am aware of some counsellors that have been in place for 20 years or more. there should also be a rule that say if someone has already sat as mayor, they cannot be re chosen to do so.
- WALGA should not be involved with any purchasing for council, it only inflates cost. Delegated authority is used too liberally and should be tightened
- Community should set and approve charter
- A community committee should manage community surveys or engagements
- recommended CEO should not be confirmed until endorsed by a vote of the community
- Electronic voting should be available
- Private, party or other paid election candidate advertising should be banned - use only EC profile
- A lot more of the above (and more) info could be added to the MyCouncil website. Suggest this?

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# Local Government Act Reforms Community Survey



## Theme 4: Candidate Profiles

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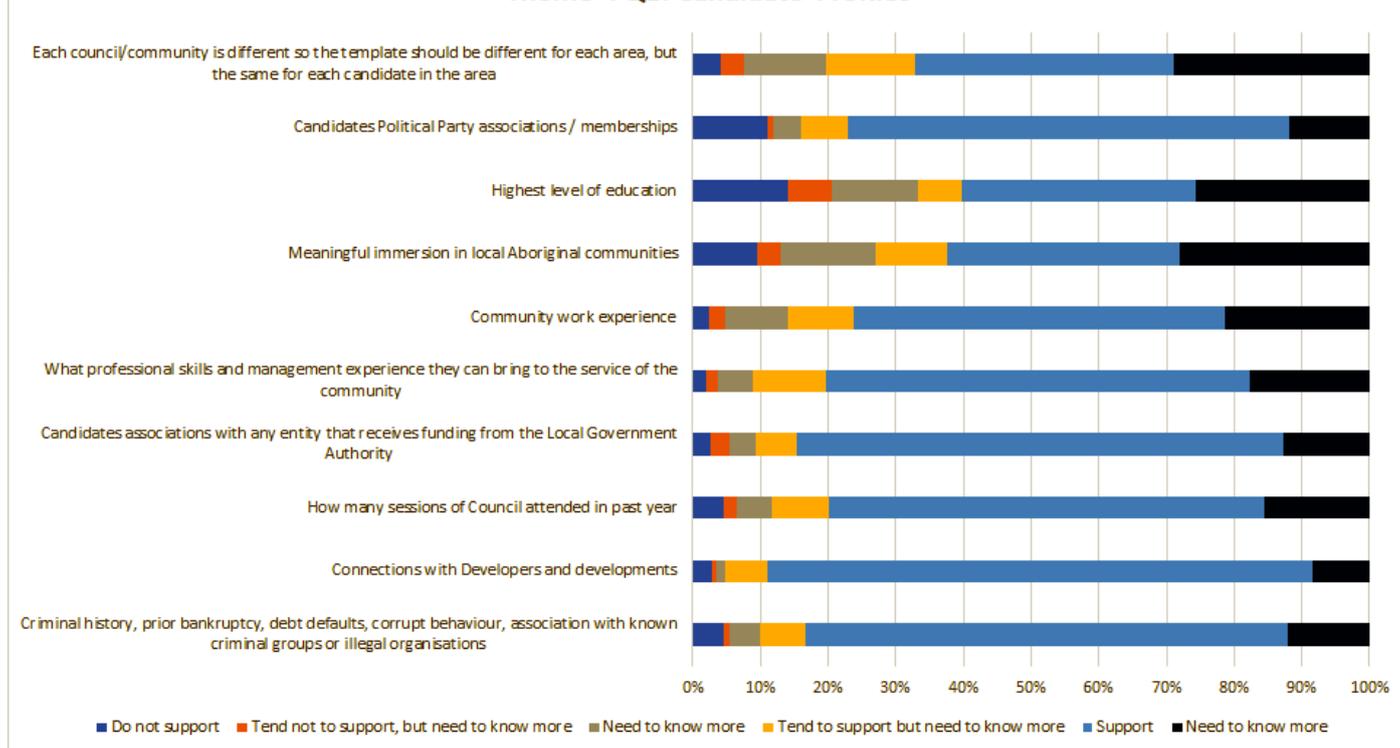
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Should the Electoral Commission provide a Candidate Profile Template that requires candidates to address specific criteria? If so, what should those criteria be?

### Theme 4 Q2: Candidate Profiles.

Q2 Candidate Profiles Should the Electoral Commission provide a Candidate Profile Template that requires candidates to address specific criteria? If so, what should those criteria be?	Total Respondents	Do not support	Tend not to support, but need to know more	Need to know more	Tend to support but need to know more	Support	Need to know more
Criminal history, prior bankruptcy, debt defaults, corrupt behaviour, association with known criminal groups or illegal organisations	132	5%	1%	5%	8%	81%	14%
Connections with Developers and developments	132	3%	1%	2%	7%	88%	9%
How many sessions of Council attended in past year	130	5%	2%	6%	10%	76%	18%
Candidates associations with any entity that receives funding from the Local Government Authority	130	3%	3%	5%	7%	82%	15%
What professional skills and management experience they can bring to the service of the community	130	2%	2%	6%	13%	76%	22%
Community work experience	129	3%	3%	12%	12%	70%	27%
Meaningful immersion in local Aboriginal communities	128	13%	5%	20%	15%	48%	39%
Highest level of education	127	19%	9%	17%	9%	46%	35%
Candidates Political Party associations / memberships	127	13%	1%	5%	8%	74%	13%
Each council/community is different so the template should be different for each area, but the same for each candidate in the area	123	6%	5%	17%	19%	54%	41%

### Theme 4 Q2: Candidate Profiles



#### Additional Comments - Theme 4 Q2 - Candidate Profiles.

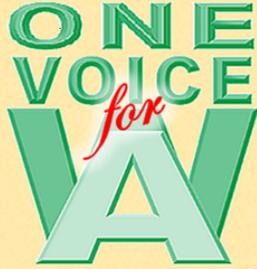
**Should the Electoral Commission provide a Candidate Profile Template that requires candidates to address specific criteria? If so, what should those criteria be?**

- Any incidents where a councillor has been involved. Police called and used their councillor status to get the issue under the carpet
- How many times have they asked questions, made comment on local issues? I.e. how actively interested are they in their community.
- No discrepancy between nominees should be public each person as seen.
- Councillors need to meet the inherent requirement of their role which is to attend council
- Political associations must be disclosed
- Attendance record of Councillors at Council Committees are currently recorded in the Annual Report.
- Photos of less than 6 months old
- My LG is a convicted criminal organisation. It should be disqualified from being a LG - alternatively the entire Council should be disqualified because it is the responsible entity.
- Note a Council is an elected jury so disqualifying persons because of education and experience attributes is dangerous because it biases the mindset of Council, If a Council comprises only university trained persons there is no need for CEO because Council can think for itself.
- Candidates should be prohibited from making election promises and commitments for specific outcomes because one Councillor cannot make Council policy or decisions

- We want thoughtful profiles not box-ticking - some items should be a matter for the returning officer (e.g. if a criminal record precludes them from holding office) and others - if someone wants to include them in their profile it's up to them
- often the profile is the only information available to the community - what they do or don't include in their profile is a significant contributor to how electors decide to vote - box ticking will NOT improve quality of candidates
- This is not an important area. Suggest forgetting about this for the time being.
- Standards need to be universal across the sector otherwise any decline reflects a denigration of expectation of a Council that has a diluted compromised standard.
- Should be open and free to anyone who wants to run
- It's a no brainer - they should have been required to do all these things before - why had it taken so long
- Candidates standing for election should make a presentation at the council meeting prior to the elections in the LG they belong to, outlining what they have to offer should they be elected and also to speak on their credentials and experience in decision-making. What skill set do they have that will influence the community to vote for them.
- Also it would be in the best interest of the LG for the administration to prepare a news article outlining the type of candidates that are being sought which will bring value to the LGA and the community as a whole.
- Candidate profiles must include a clear current (less than 6 months old) photograph of the candidate. Too many hide their real age after 20 years on council by using old photos. Any other campaign materials using photos of the candidate should also be less than one year old.
- See above re political party membership.
- The culture of short-term blow ins gaining experience then moving on helps no one and causes more chaos.
- Previous misconduct, either minor or serious, while holding a Council position.
- All of these areas are important to all councillors regardless of locality. Councillors should declare the Facebook pages they are moderating- our Deputy mayor moderated 24 before the Maylands Ratepayers asked councillors to declare affiliations with social media moderation/ promotion of themselves.
- Difficult to weed out the numpties, some people are confident just because they aren't smart enough to realise how much they don't understand
- Voluntary service
- skills and attributes useful to the Council
- Private advertising should be disallowed as this favours purchasing of votes and corrupts independence of council
- Board and committee experience
- I would also ask if they're across the budget, annual report, major issues the city is dealing with - and give a precise of those as evidence of that. I get blocked if I ask candidates these Qs. They just want to make promises that don't bear witness to how local govt actually works.

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# Local Government Act Reforms Community Survey



## Theme 5: Clear Roles and Responsibilities

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**5.1 Introduce Principles in the Act**

**5.3 Council Communication Agreements**

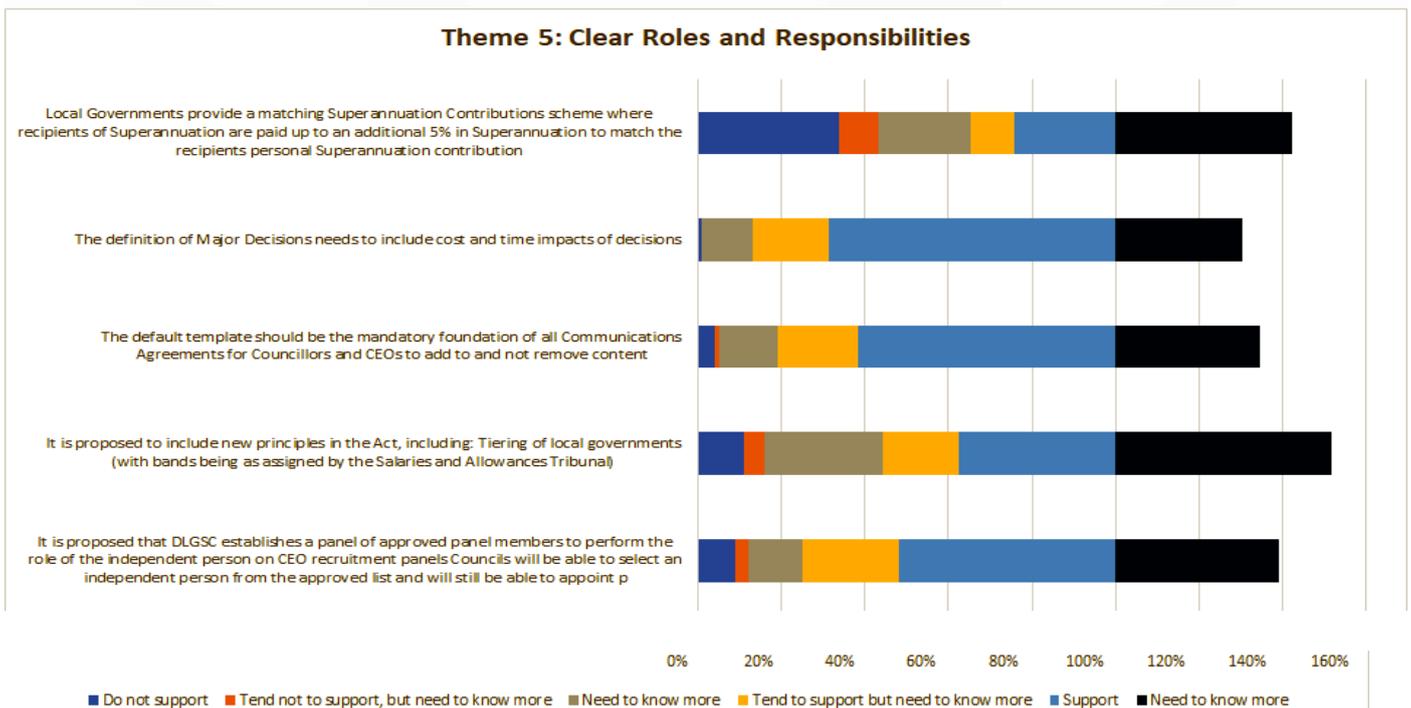
**5.4 Local Governments May Pay Superannuation Contributions for Elected Members**

**5.5 Local Governments May Establish Education Allowances 5.6 Standardised Election Caretaker period**

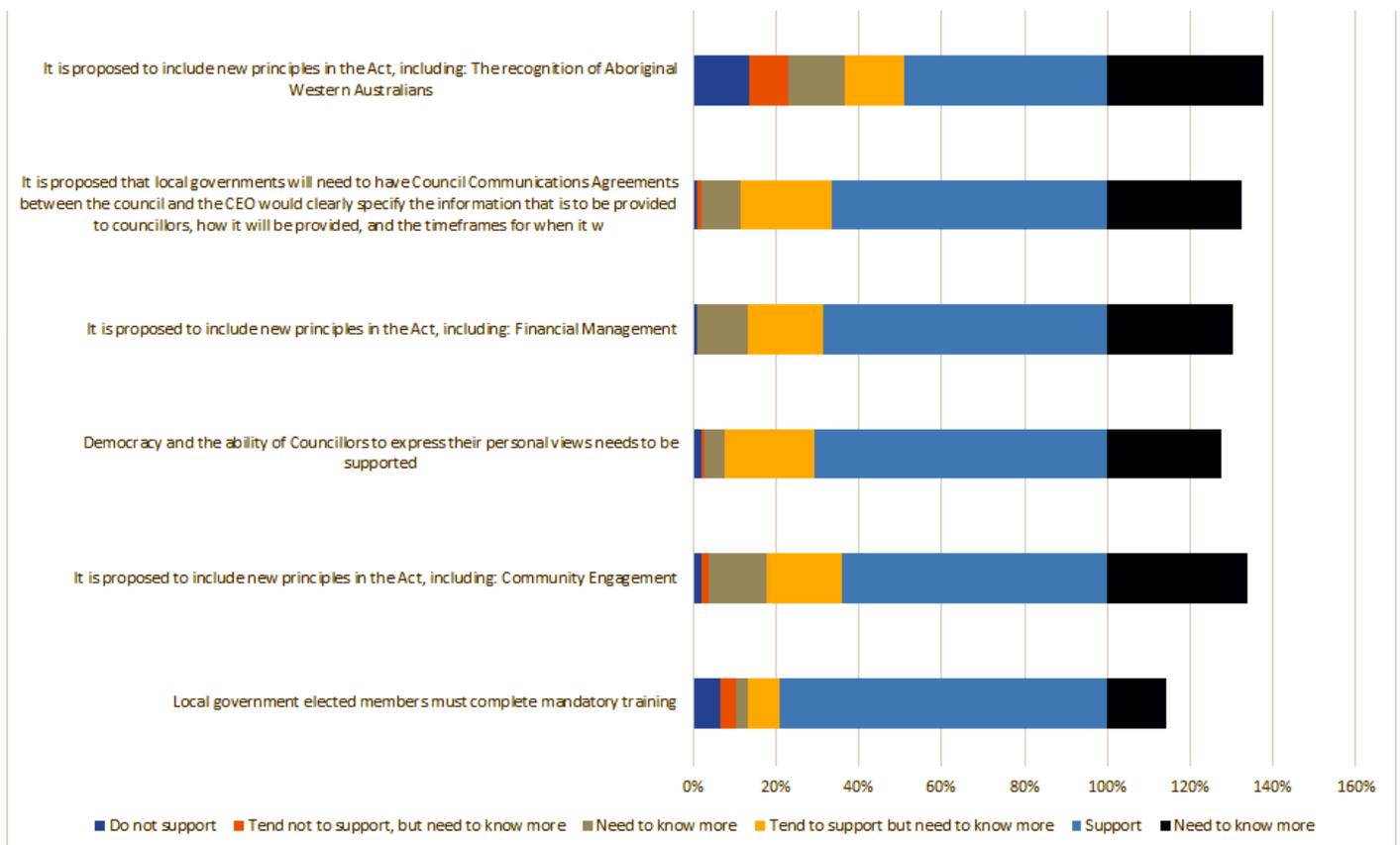
**5.8 CEO Recruitment**

Theme 5: Clear Roles and Responsibilities 5.1 Introduce Principles in the Act 5.3 Council Communication Agreements 5.4 Local Governments May Pay Superannuation Contributions for Elected Members 5.5 Local Governments May Establish Education Allowances 5.6 Standardised Election Caretaker period 5.8 CEO Recruitment	Total Respondents	Do not support	Tend not to support, but need to know more	Need to know more	Tend to support but need to know more	Support	Need to know more
Local government elected members must complete mandatory training	106	7%	4%	3%	8%	<b>79%</b>	14%
It is proposed to include new principles in the Act, including: Community Engagement	106	2%	2%	14%	18%	<b>64%</b>	34%
Democracy and the ability of Councillors to express their personal views needs to be supported	106	2%	1%	5%	22%	<b>71%</b>	27%
It is proposed to include new principles in the Act, including: Financial Management	105	1%	0%	12%	18%	<b>69%</b>	30%
It is proposed that local governments will need to have Council Communications Agreements between the council and the CEO would clearly specify the information that is to be provided to councillors, how it will be provided, and the timeframes for when it will be provided	105	1%	1%	10%	22%	<b>67%</b>	32%
It is proposed to include new principles in the Act, including: The recognition of Aboriginal Western Australians	104	13%	10%	13%	14%	<b>49%</b>	38%
CEOs should be constrained from making decisions under delegated authority during the Caretaker Period and until those Delegated Authorities are reviewed by the new Council	104	9%	5%	6%	12%	<b>69%</b>	22%
The Local Government Act should specifically require local governments have advocacy policy that clearly states when, and, when it will not get involved in performing an advocacy role for the residents and ratepayers of its district	104	6%	1%	13%	19%	<b>61%</b>	34%
The State Government should establishing clearly articulated principles such as Transparency, environmental stewardship etc.	104	2%	0%	8%	14%	<b>76%</b>	22%
Whilst Councillors are not Employees, rather Volunteers, it is proposed that local governments should be able to decide, through a vote of council, to pay superannuation contributions for elected members. These contributions would be additional to existing allowances	103	<b>42%</b>	6%	17%	10%	25%	33%
Councils will be able to decide if they will provide education expenses, up to a maximum yearly value for each councillor or tuition costs for further education that is directly related local government and to their role on council	103	12%	8%	18%	17%	<b>45%</b>	44%
Training for Elected Members should not be conducted by Local Government Stakeholder Organisations and should be restricted to independent Training organisations such as TAFE	103	8%	3%	10%	12%	<b>68%</b>	24%
There should be a statewide caretaker period for local governments where Councils do not make major decisions, with criteria to be developed defining 'major' and Incumbent councillors who nominate for re-election are not to represent the local government, act on behalf of the council, or use their role or local government resources to support campaigning activities	103	8%	3%	11%	16%	<b>63%</b>	29%
It is proposed that local governments will need to have Council Communications Agreements between the council and the CEO in support of ensuring that council and committee members can have access to any information held by the local government that is relevant to the performance of the member in their functions	103	0%	1%	10%	17%	<b>73%</b>	27%
There should be a standard set of required principles / values supported by a suite of template policies ( including advocacy)	102	4%	1%	12%	24%	<b>60%</b>	36%
Requests of Council by the CEO for additional staff should be subject to restrictions that prevent requests of outgoing Councils	102	2%	5%	13%	15%	<b>66%</b>	32%

A template would be published by DLGSC. This default template will come into force if a council and CEO do not make a specific other agreement within a certain timeframe following any election	102	1%	0%	17%	18%	<b>65%</b>	34%
Allowing council to provide superannuation is important part of encouraging equality for people represented on council – particularly for women and younger people	101	<b>39%</b>	10%	18%	8%	26%	<b>36%</b>
Elected Member should not choose and support any candidates in Local Government Elections	101	7%	1%	15%	11%	<b>66%</b>	27%
Councillors should not decide on paying themselves Superannuation, as being required to do so places them into a situation of conflict with regard to their own financial interests	101	5%	1%	9%	8%	<b>77%</b>	18%
Narrowing the training down to just directly related local government is too narrow, serious Councillors would obtain more benefit from credible Courses from the Aust. Inst. of Company Directors or the Institute of Governance or Curtin Business School etc.	100	13%	10%	17%	15%	<b>45%</b>	42%
State Government should mandate election caretaker policies not individual Councils	100	12%	1%	17%	8%	<b>62%</b>	26%
It is proposed that DLGSC establishes a panel of approved panel members to perform the role of the independent person on CEO recruitment panels Councils will be able to select an independent person from the approved list and will still be able to appoint people outside of the panel with the approval of the Inspector	100	9%	3%	13%	23%	<b>52%</b>	39%
It is proposed to include new principles in the Act, including: Tiering of local governments (with bands being as assigned by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal)	99	11%	5%	28%	18%	<b>37%</b>	52%
The default template should be the mandatory foundation of all Communications Agreements for Councillors and CEOs to add to and not remove content	99	4%	1%	14%	19%	<b>62%</b>	34%
The definition of Major Decisions needs to include cost and time impacts of decisions	99	1%	0%	12%	18%	<b>69%</b>	30%
Local Governments provide a matching Superannuation Contributions scheme where recipients of Superannuation are paid up to an additional 5% in Superannuation to match the recipients personal Superannuation contribution	95	<b>34%</b>	9%	22%	11%	24%	<b>42%</b>







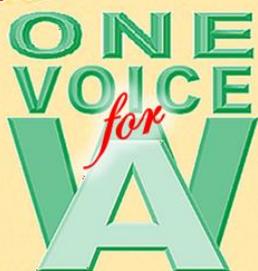
### Additional Comments - Theme 5: Clear Roles and Responsibilities

- The syllabuses that are listed in the course for the training of elected members are short of specific details as to what is specifically being taught.
- Independent panels for CEO employment are essential
- Also people from health. Tax. Etc should be considered
- Councillors have too much power.
- Some legislation regulating the CEO's access to elected members email accounts
- City/Town/Shires must have a Election Caretaker Period Policy & a Significant Decision Policy. The Caretaker policy must give notice to employees/councillors at least 30 days' notice prior to the Caretaker period coming in. Councillors' entitlements such as Superannuation should be decided by the State Arbitration Tribunal (SAT).
- Must be offence not to provide a record in a timely way to which there is right of access.
- Councils already have power to have EM super
- Caretaker period has to apply to delegates as well, and to announcements, awards, grants ceremonies etc that favour incumbents
- Outgoing CEOs should have caretaker arrangements especially relating t staff movements and remuneration
- re Training for Elected Members should not be conducted by Local Government Stakeholder Organisations and should be restricted to independent Training
- organisations such as TAFE :- This assumes independent training org lecturers could understand the intricacies of the LG Acts and Regulations, Codes, Standards and Local Laws
- The DSLG should develop and publish a mandatory clear and explicit curriculum for this purpose

- The present Act and Regulations are self-explanatory but include great voids of uncertainty in interpretation and application - is too risky to leave this to a host of independent trainers, who would see this as an opportunity to gain employment
- EM re and super should be set by the rem tribunal
- EMs (and CEOs) should recognise that a decision of council should not be undermined once made
- caretaker period matters not important.
- Unless Councillors are paid a "salary" they should not be paid superannuation by Council's rates collections. It would be interesting to see if they qualify for the Commonwealth Superannuation contribution of 10% /10.5%, before indulging in such largess. Council employee should be encouraged to seek further "related" higher education skills/ qualifications subsidised by Councils on a performance -results basis.
- They need stronger HR and employment policies
- Some councillors see their entitlements as a right. Being on Council and making decisions of substantial amount of money, they should have some sort of professional background. Some argue that having a membership to the AICD or even completing a company directors course will enable them to better decision-making. I think not and is a waste of ratepayers money as far as i am concerned. A company directors course is more for private ASX listed companies where they have to adhere to the Corporations Act. Councillors go by the LG Act and that is what they need to gain a substantial understanding of and not from completing a company directors course. They not only demand doing they course but also request for membership through a council decision. Where does one draw the line?
- Back to open and transparent dealings by skilled educated individuals but all susceptible to manipulation by higher authority. Not sure it would last long with Australia's record of fairness.
- Panels of independent members are fraught with opportunity to exert statewide influence across a range of LGAs
- Bayswater new mayor and co. Voted themselves a 10% pay rise the second they were elected. Mayors should not undertake other full time work.
- Transparency, and environmental stewardship should be set by community forums and managed by community committees
- Standards for training of elected members must reflect prior knowledge and be agreed by the community
- The employee hierarchy chart should be a mandated review and approval by council following each ordinary election
- Each Local Government should have at least one aboriginal elected member as a Councillor
- the duties of community representation and communication pathway need definition and clarity of purpose

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# Local Government Act Reforms Community Survey



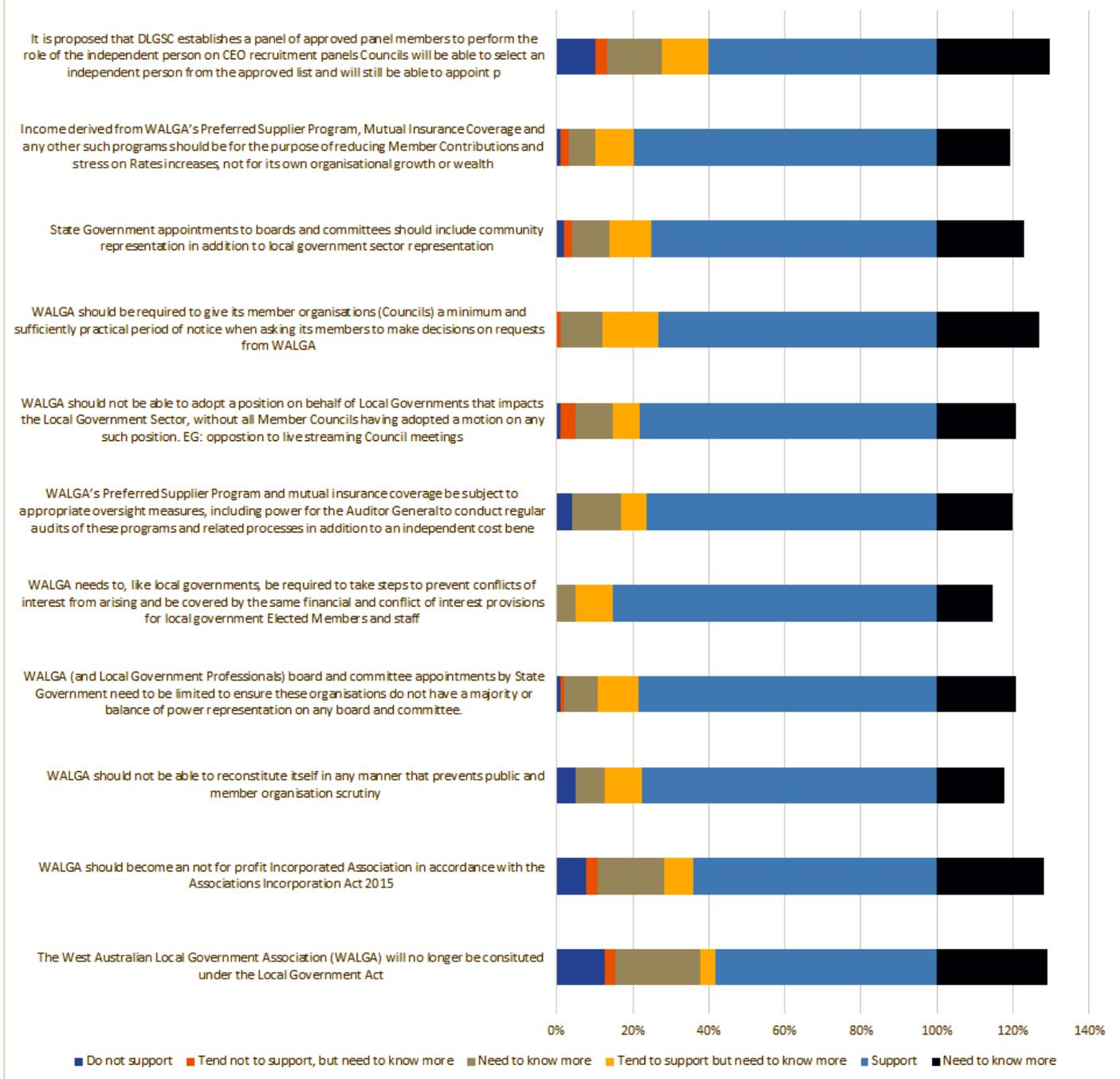
## Theme 5: WALGA (West Australian Local Government Association)

Presented by **Local Government Reform**   
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<b>WALGA (West Australian Local Government Association) 5.7 Remove WALGA from the Act: In accordance with the Local Government Review Panel Report's recommendation, WALGA will no longer be constituted under the Local Government Act 1995.</b>	<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>Do not support</b>	<b>Tend not to support, but need to know more</b>	<b>Need to know more</b>	<b>Tend to support but need to know more</b>	<b>Support</b>	<b>Need to know more</b>
The West Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) will no longer be constituted under the Local Government Act	103	13%	3%	22%	4%	<b>58%</b>	29%
WALGA should become an not for profit Incorporated Association in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act 2015	103	8%	3%	17%	8%	<b>64%</b>	28%
WALGA should not be able to reconstitute itself in any manner that prevents public and member organisation scrutiny	102	5%	0%	8%	10%	<b>77%</b>	18%
WALGA (and Local Government Professionals) board and committee appointments by State Government need to be limited to ensure these organisations do not have a majority or balance of power representation on any board and committee.	102	1%	1%	9%	11%	<b>78%</b>	21%
WALGA needs to, like local governments, be required to take steps to prevent conflicts of interest from arising and be covered by the same financial and conflict of interest provisions for local government Elected Members and staff	102	0%	0%	5%	10%	<b>85%</b>	15%
WALGA's Preferred Supplier Program and mutual insurance coverage be subject to appropriate oversight measures, including power for the Auditor General to conduct regular audits of these programs and related processes in addition to an independent cost benefit analysis being conducted	101	4%	0%	13%	7%	<b>76%</b>	20%
WALGA should not be able to adopt a position on behalf of Local Governments that impacts the Local Government Sector, without all Member Councils having adopted a motion on any such position. EG: opposition to live streaming Council meetings	101	1%	4%	10%	7%	<b>78%</b>	21%
WALGA should be required to give its member organisations (Councils) a minimum and sufficiently practical period of notice when asking its members to make decisions on requests from WALGA	101	0%	1%	11%	15%	<b>73%</b>	27%
State Government appointments to boards and committees should include community representation in addition to local government sector representation	100	2%	2%	10%	11%	<b>75%</b>	23%
Income derived from WALGA's Preferred Supplier Program, Mutual Insurance Coverage and any other such programs should be for the purpose of reducing Member Contributions and stress on Rates increases, not for its own organisational growth or wealth	99	1%	2%	7%	10%	<b>80%</b>	19%
It is proposed that DLGSC establishes a panel of approved panel members to perform the role of the independent person on CEO recruitment panels Councils will be able to select an independent person from the approved list and will still be able to appoint people outside of the panel with the approval of the Inspector	98	10%	3%	14%	12%	<b>60%</b>	30%

### Theme 5: WALGA



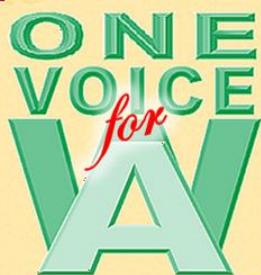
### Additional Comments - Theme 5: WALGA (West Australian Local Government Association)

- Do we really need Walga and do they really provide important independent function/s or just another complex financial function of processes.
- WALGA needs to be separated and not the be all and end all of local govt
- WALGA should not be empowered to make any gifts without complete transparency to the community
- Limit WALGA's ability to give 'advice', unbiased or otherwise, to elected members.
- Each Council to have an Election Caretaker Period Policy that is available online and is easy to find. The Policy must state that the CEO is to give staff, Council, contractors 30 days notice before the commencement of the Caretaker Period.

- Each Council must have a Significant Decision Policy.
- All Statutory requirements for WALGA to nominate state government board members must be repealed
- State Partnership agreement needs to be abandoned, and WALGA and LGPro not speaking for LG
- WALGA is currently an unincorporated association disguised as an incorporated association. Its constitution describes itself as a NFPA. It should be registered under the Associations Incorporation Act. S9.58 of the LG Act is vague. SA9.58 is wrong and should say "Associations Incorporation Act 2015 Section 6" - not the Fair Trading Act 2010. More gobbledegook !!
- [https://walga.asn.au/getattachment/About-WALGA/20210920\\_Association\\_Constitution.pdf?lang=en-AU](https://walga.asn.au/getattachment/About-WALGA/20210920_Association_Constitution.pdf?lang=en-AU)
- WALGA is a lobby group that places the interests of CEO's ahead of EMs or LGs as a whole or community
- Its special status should be removed under legislation
- Transparency as to who benefits from supplier agreements etc is required and any financial benefits should be returned to LG participants not WALGA who should simply recover costs
- EOIs for appointment to state government boards should make it easier for EM's who are outside the in-crowd to receive serious consideration
- The continued existence of WALGA, or similar body, must be structured on principles of providing universal support services and policy development to the local government sector i.e. be representative of all local government Councils and in doing so provide the opportunity for uniformity and consistency across the sector leading to efficiencies, effectiveness, transparency, accountability and eliminating duplication and disparity while, exploiting economies of scale for local government operations and governance.
- Time for giving back to the ratepayers not hiking the rates for their own ends.
- State Government should not be involved with the Administration of Local Government i.e., independent panel members
- WALGA provides a disproportionate advantage to the "bodies corporate" of local governments - to balance this it is essential that an equivalent resident and ratepayer organisation be constituted and equally sponsored by State and Local Government.
- The existing mutual insurance scheme must be excised from WALGA and created as an independent body managed equally by WALGA and the new Resident and Ratepayer peak body.
- Dissolve the partnership between the State Government, WALGA and LGPWA

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# Local Government Act Reforms Community Survey



## Theme 5: Greater Role Clarity: Mayor or President Role

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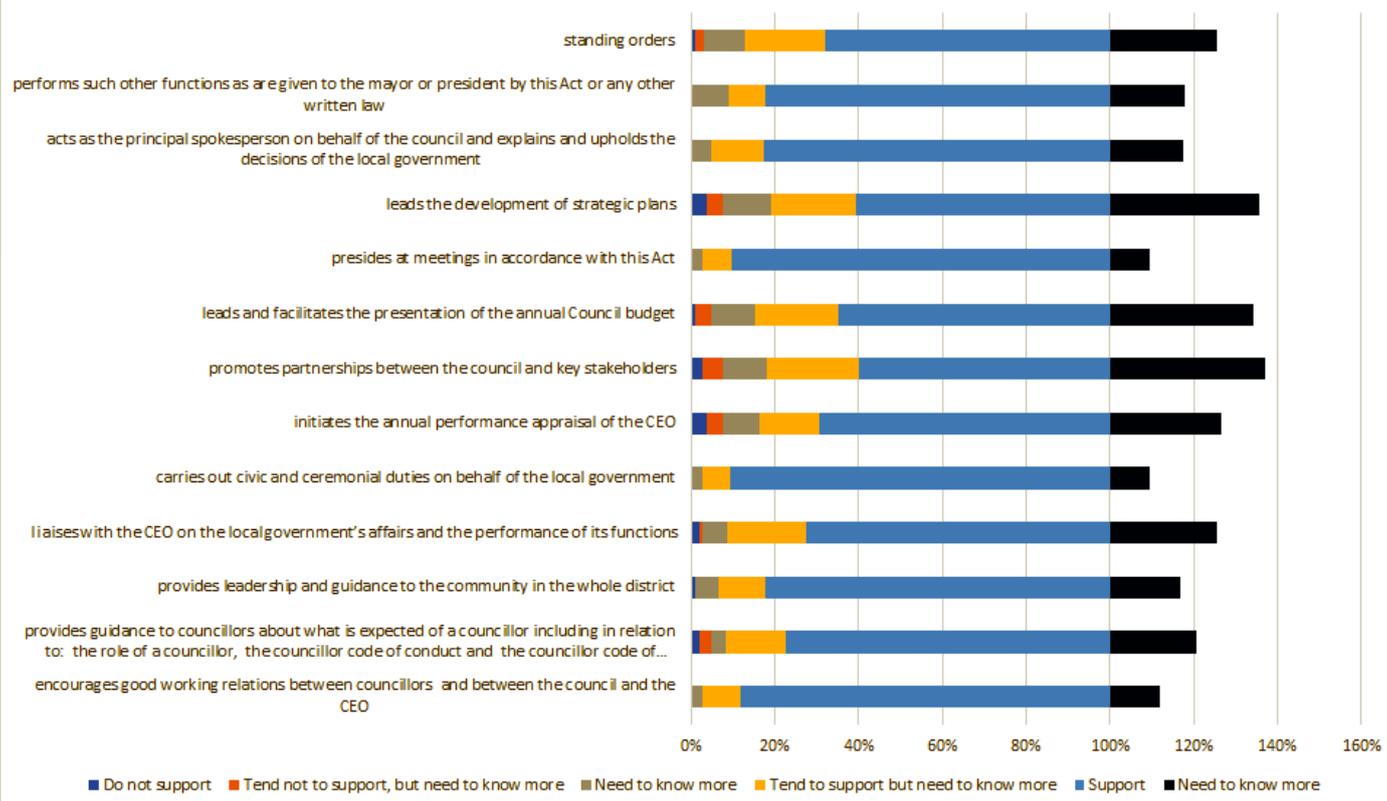
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### Recommendations from the Local Government Review Panel May 2020

#### Theme 5: Greater Role Clarity: Mayor or President Role

Theme 5: Greater Role Clarity: Mayor or President Role It is proposed to amend the Local Government Act to specify the roles and responsibilities of the Mayor or President. The following are the recommendations from the Local Government Review Panel May 2020	Total Respondents	Do not support	Tend not to support, but need to know more	Need to know more	Tend to support but need to know more	Support	Need to know more
encourages good working relations between councillors and between the council and the CEO	109	0%	0%	3%	9%	<b>88%</b>	12%
provides guidance to councillors about what is expected of a councillor including in relation to: the role of a councillor, the councillor code of conduct and the councillor code of conduct	107	2%	3%	4%	14%	<b>78%</b>	21%
provides leadership and guidance to the community in the whole district	107	1%	0%	6%	11%	<b>82%</b>	17%
liaises with the CEO on the local government's affairs and the performance of its functions	106	2%	1%	6%	19%	<b>73%</b>	25%
carries out civic and ceremonial duties on behalf of the local government	106	0%	0%	3%	7%	<b>91%</b>	9%
initiates the annual performance appraisal of the CEO	105	4%	4%	9%	14%	<b>70%</b>	27%
promotes partnerships between the council and key stakeholders	105	3%	5%	10%	22%	<b>60%</b>	37%
leads and facilitates the presentation of the annual Council budget	105	1%	4%	10%	20%	<b>65%</b>	34%
presides at meetings in accordance with this Act	105	0%	0%	3%	7%	<b>90%</b>	10%
leads the development of strategic plans	104	4%	4%	12%	20%	<b>61%</b>	36%
acts as the principal spokesperson on behalf of the council and explains and upholds the decisions of the local government	104	0%	0%	5%	13%	<b>83%</b>	17%
performs such other functions as are given to the mayor or president by this Act or any other written law	101	0%	0%	9%	9%	<b>82%</b>	18%
standing orders	94	1%	2%	10%	19%	<b>68%</b>	25%

### Theme 5: Greater Role Clarity: Mayor



### Additional Comments - Theme 5: Greater Role Clarity: Mayor or President Role

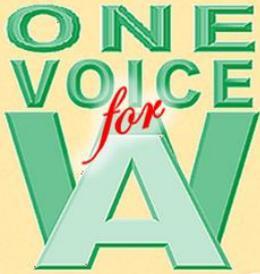
- These questions didn't really give option to question the role or clarity of the role of the Mayor or presiding Role. We also needed such questions of: a/ should the Mayor preside over decisions considered by the CEO and ensure open discussion/opinion of councillors toward any decision. b/ should the Mayor ensure open discussion with all stakeholders/residents on any major financial project for such local inclusion towards any decision. c/ should the Mayor also ensure open/honest transparency with Council / Councillors / residents / stakeholders with any major project funding to ensure inclusion of all parties and not just that of CEO/Council making such decisions.
- City of Rockingham is the most conflicted distinction organisation I have come across
- 14 years on council. Most as deputy and now mayor. Still does not know how to run a meeting
- CEO enters debates at council meetings
- Does not understand budgets. Or \$
- Runs a purple circle
- I would like to see the Mayor not misuse their position of power e.g. By cutting off those who disagree with them- constituents and councillors.
- There is currently the opportunity for undue influence and little oversight in the Mayor (Shire President)/CEO relationship as well as Mayor (Shire President) interactions with developers and other parties seeking support.
- Legislation requiring Mayors/Shire President to report to council on all the mayoral activities carried out.

- I mean yes... but only if the mayor is actually competent. This is not always the case.
- Most of these roles already in Act, no more needed, no change needed other than Mayor must be impartial at meetings, Mayor can vote but should not make debate contribution, casting vote should generally preserve status quo, be clearly statutorily responsible for answers to Public Questions at meetings, votes should be secret until they are all made
- Standing orders must NOT be a local law. Breaches are covered by the Rules of Conduct Regs
- The mayor has a limited role and that is to chair meetings and represent the LG to outside entities as its leader.
- Councils are short of time, resources, expertise and awareness of what is going on within its administration. This leaves it open to the Mayor and CEO to
- operate jointly to manipulate agenda and Council and therefore outcomes.
- This is a difficult area to manage by prescription because it entails liaison with the state government bureaucracy and developers
- Leadership and mentorship of upcoming mayoral candidates
- The role of Mayor should not be given absolute power should be a team decision with fellow Councillors and Residents Association.
- Mayors /Presidents should be engaged as full-time officials and have no other employers.
- As it is important that the mayor / president has the support of the Council - perhaps they should be elected by the council
- A lot of poor behaviour of EMs and adverse media coverage seems to be from EMs and others who wish to become mayor / president and they seek to defame and attack the reputation of the incumbent for their own purposes to position themselves in the minds of the electorate for an election that may be 2 or more years away
- Many of these attributes are a given however, all need to be allocated on the basis that the CEO's roles and ultimate responsibilities are not undermined or compromised otherwise, untenable situations will arise that will stifle local government effectiveness.
- Mayor or President should not be able to vote on a council resolution except as a casting vote where a casting vote is required.
- Leadership and guidance must reflect the opinion of council and not personal opinion
- Mayors often forget they are representing the community and not their own interests. They also forget that the council is also there to represent the community not rubber stamping their agendas. Limiting the mayoral role to spokesman and ceremonial is one way to ensure they don't think they run a kingdom
- Needs to v voted in by the rate payers
- Again there is a lot of trust to be served up here by many and how long does it take for someone to undermine it. In principle yes but again the state would oppose any power sharing being handed back. will be a tuff nut to crack i feel.

- Should be elected by residents under the one vote rule - no non-resident business lessees or corporate bodies should get a vote
- Shares information in emergencies and natural disasters about where to get help
- Mayor to only have casting vote. No double dipping of votes
- encourages balanced informed debate
- is bound by the decisions of council
- ensures Councillors have adequate resources and information access to facilitate informed decision making
- holds authority to direct the CEO in respect to decisions or needs of council
- coordinates projects established by council
- coordinates communications and reporting between council and part 5 committees
- the mayor is to support each and every Councillor equally and without bias

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# Local Government Act Reforms Community Survey



## Theme 5: Greater Role Clarity: Council Role

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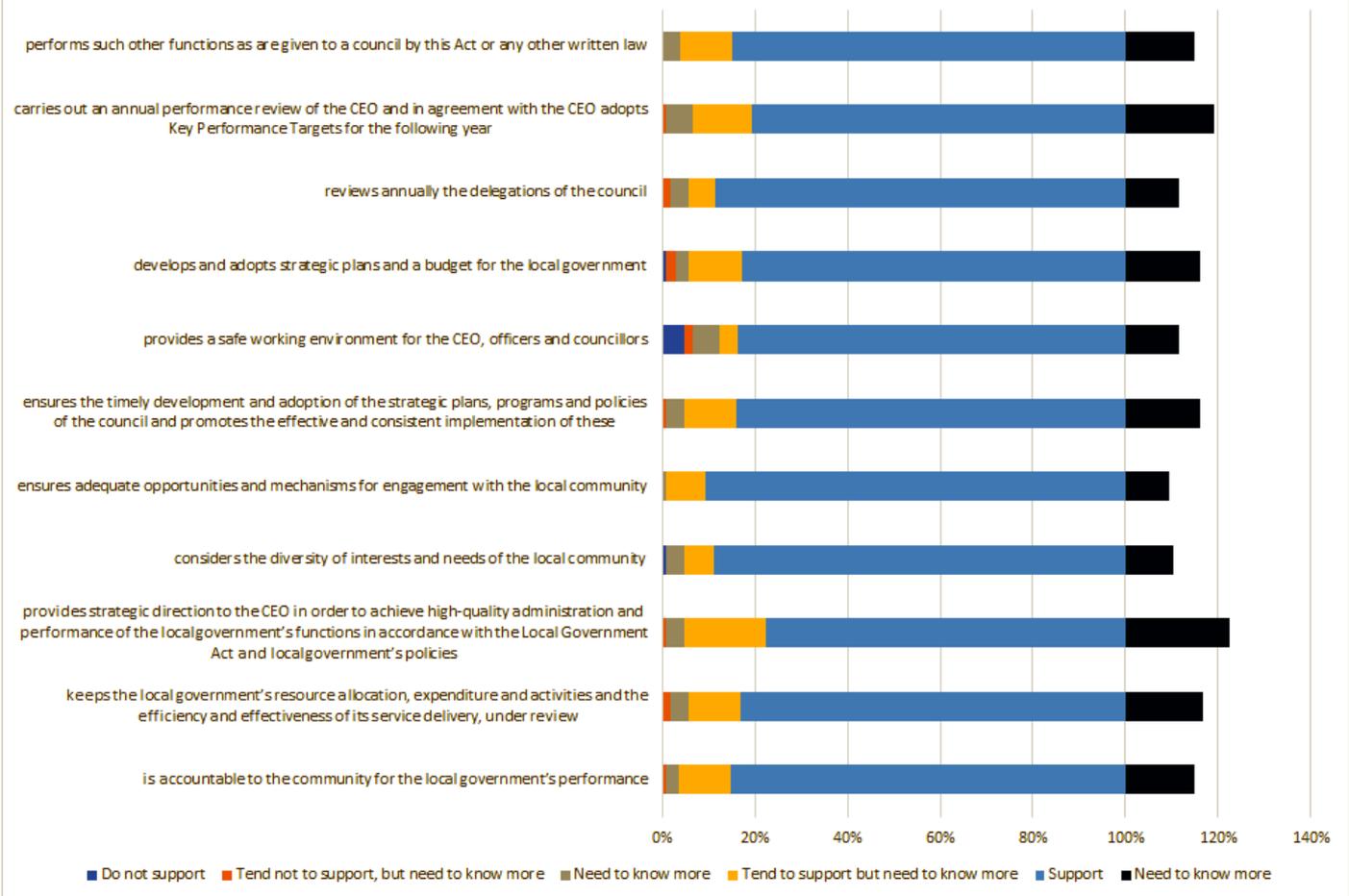
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### Recommendations from the Local Government Review Panel May 2020

#### Theme 5: Greater Role Clarity: Council Role

Theme 5: Greater Role Clarity: Council Role It is proposed to amend the Local Government Act to specify the roles and responsibilities of Council. The following are the recommendations from the Local Government Review Panel May 2020	Total Respondents	Do not support	Tend not to support, but need to know more	Need to know more	Tend to support but need to know more	Support	Need to know more
is accountable to the community for the local government's performance	107	0%	1%	3%	11%	<b>85%</b>	15%
keeps the local government's resource allocation, expenditure and activities and the efficiency and effectiveness of its service delivery, under review	107	0%	2%	4%	11%	<b>83%</b>	17%
provides strategic direction to the CEO in order to achieve high-quality administration and performance of the local government's functions in accordance with the Local Government Act and local government's policies	107	0%	1%	4%	18%	<b>78%</b>	22%
considers the diversity of interests and needs of the local community	106	1%	0%	4%	7%	<b>89%</b>	10%
ensures adequate opportunities and mechanisms for engagement with the local community	106	0%	0%	1%	8%	<b>91%</b>	9%
ensures the timely development and adoption of the strategic plans, programs and policies of the council and promotes the effective and consistent implementation of these	106	0%	1%	4%	11%	<b>84%</b>	16%
provides a safe working environment for the CEO, officers and councillors	105	5%	2%	6%	4%	<b>84%</b>	11%
develops and adopts strategic plans and a budget for the local government	105	1%	2%	3%	11%	<b>83%</b>	16%
reviews annually the delegations of the council	105	0%	2%	4%	6%	<b>89%</b>	11%
carries out an annual performance review of the CEO and in agreement with the CEO adopts Key Performance Targets for the following year	104	0%	1%	6%	13%	<b>81%</b>	19%
performs such other functions as are given to a council by this Act or any other written law	100	0%	0%	4%	11%	<b>85%</b>	15%

### Theme 5: Greater Role Clarity: Council



### Additional Comments - Theme 5: Greater Role Clarity: Council Role

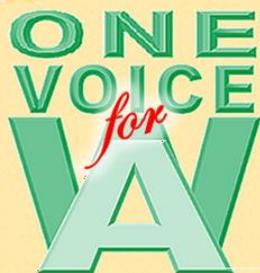
- again, all questions that Council should already be adopting and doing with the inclusion on ensuring a CEO is not always the final decision make and making sure all large financial decisions and made with open transparency. We find locally where the CEO is potentially influencing decisions from behind, yet then able to claim it was not a decision of the CEO but of Council/Councillors, hence being able to distance themselves from any possible fallout.
- City of Rockingham the exec officers and CEO run the council
- Mayor and purple circle state publicly they will take the officers recommendations
- A very divided council
- PROVIDING FOR A SAFE WORKING ENVIRONMENT SHOULD BE COVERED UNDER STATE LAWS AND SHOULD NOT BE REQUIRED IN ANY NEW ACT OF LG
- Participate in Policy reviews as and when due.
- I believe this is a great implementation. The sooner the better. I feel in our current situation it is the CEO and officers that rule the roost.

- Get rid of the parasites they are a drain on the productive
- Reporting to council of their local government workers compensation rates to ensure the CEO is providing a safe workplace.
- Ability to carry out surveys of their local government employees to assist in CEO performance review and to assist in improvements to organisational culture.
- Greater involvement and accountability in developing LG budgets.
- The CEO is responsible for the working environment, not the councillors.
- NO change is needed to Council roles
- Budgets should start with community workshops
- Budgets should be required to be advertised to community
- Budgets should be five year rolling budgets linked at each line to Strategic Community Plan, and Corporate Works Plan
- re performs such other functions as are given to a council by this Act or any other written law: - This is another difficult area because unless an Act specifically prescribes Council involvement in administrative processes then Council will be blissfully unaware of what its CEO and officers are up to when administering the host of "other Acts"
- The "local community" should be properly representative rather than be defined by the fringe groups in the community who seem to have the time to complain while the great majority of the community have other more important things to worry about like family and work. The local government should function for the great majority of the community and not be distracted by fringe social issues whose supporters demand attention.
- Consequences for not performing adequately
- The word Councillors must include Mayor or President
- many of these functions are IMPOSSIBLE for the Council to perform under current legislative arrangements which enshrine the primacy of the CEO with no practical opportunity for the Council to oversight (agree that there is a need to improve the calibre of EMs as well - see earlier comments
- The Councils role and effectiveness will always be based on access to information and expertise held by the CEO, Executive and Council administrative employees.... moving away from this basic concept could result in Councillors seeking advice a outside Council and local government increasing the risk of corruption and minority group influence.
- Been hoping it might happen for many years. Like to say that when rule bending goes right to the top it is extremely hard to stop. Proven by the way.
- Not the mayors job to overturn city officer recommendations nor resident submissions and deputations
- determines means to ensure accountability and delivery of function performance
- surveys for ward community needs
- schedules community engagements

- Council does not currently have enforcement powers or adequate knowledge to ensure a safe workplace.
- reviews following each ordinary election all part 5 committees
- Council is to determine enforcement methods and practices for its policies, plans and decisions etc
- Council policy is to include standards expectations applicable to all parties and outcomes where compliance is deliberately abused
- Ensure that the purpose and intent of the Act are applied to all Council matters, responsibilities, and roles

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# Local Government Act Reforms Community Survey



## Theme 5: Greater Role Clarity: Elected Member (Councillor) Role

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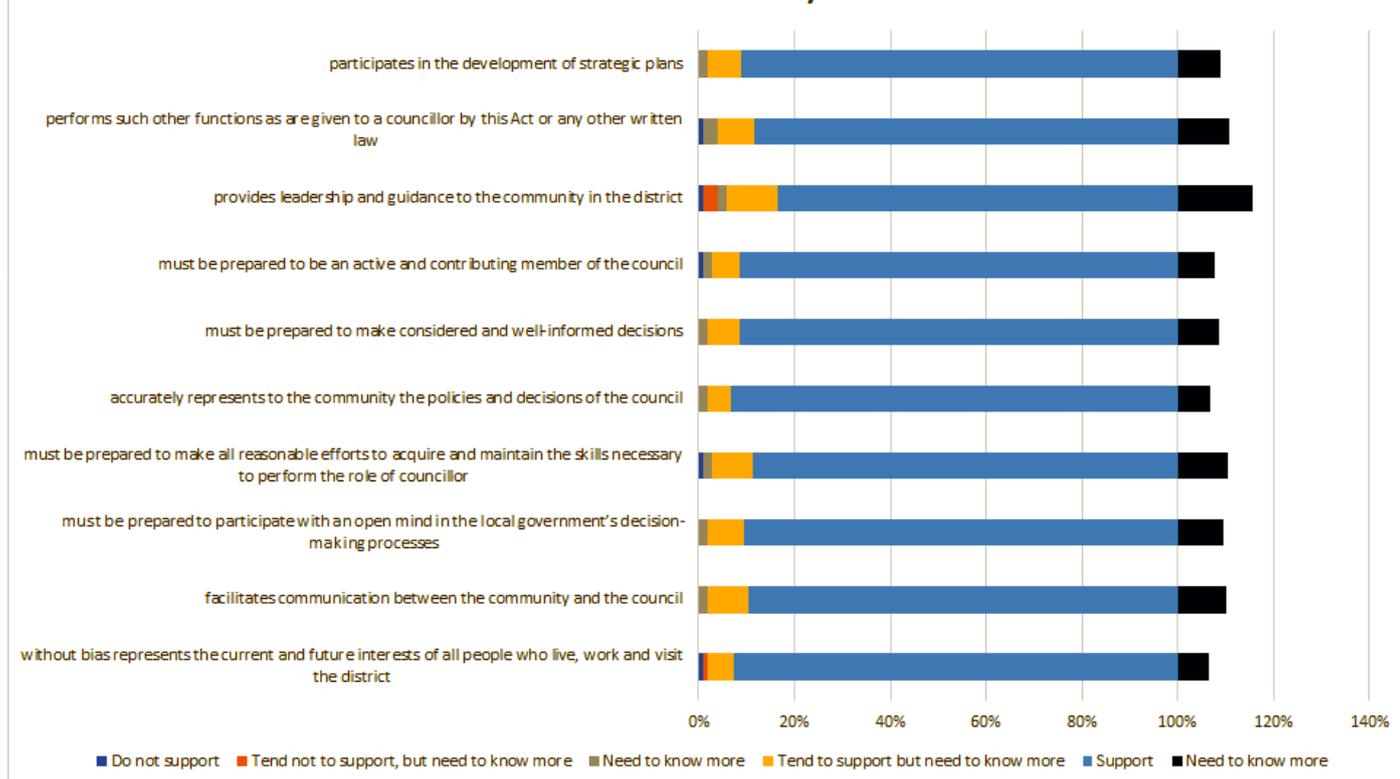
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### Recommendations from the Local Government Review Panel May 2020

#### Theme 5: Greater Role Clarity: Elected Member (Councillor) Role

Theme 5: Greater Role Clarity: Elected Member (Councillor) Role It is proposed to amend the Local Government Act to specify the roles and responsibilities of a Councillor. The following are the recommendations from the Local Government Review Panel May 2020	Total Respondents	Do not support	Tend not to support, but need to know more	Need to know more	Tend to support but need to know more	Support	Need to know more
without bias represents the current and future interests of all people who live, work and visit the district	107	1%	1%	0%	6%	<b>93%</b>	7%
facilitates communication between the community and the council	107	0%	0%	2%	8%	<b>90%</b>	10%
must be prepared to participate with an open mind in the local government's decision-making processes	106	0%	0%	2%	8%	<b>91%</b>	9%
must be prepared to make all reasonable efforts to acquire and maintain the skills necessary to perform the role of councillor	105	1%	0%	2%	9%	<b>89%</b>	10%
accurately represents to the community the policies and decisions of the council	105	0%	0%	2%	5%	<b>93%</b>	7%
must be prepared to make considered and well-informed decisions	105	0%	0%	2%	7%	<b>91%</b>	9%
must be prepared to be an active and contributing member of the council	104	1%	0%	2%	6%	<b>91%</b>	8%
provides leadership and guidance to the community in the district	103	1%	3%	2%	11%	<b>83%</b>	16%
performs such other functions as are given to a councillor by this Act or any other written law	103	1%	0%	3%	8%	<b>88%</b>	11%
participates in the development of strategic plans	102	0%	0%	2%	7%	<b>91%</b>	9%

### Theme 5: Greater Role Clarity: Councillors



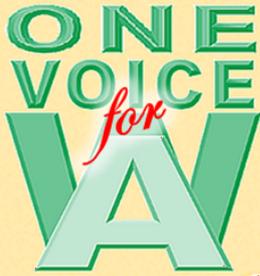
### Additional Comments - Theme 5: Greater Role Clarity: Elected Member (Councillor) Role

- unfortunately we find locally that whilst we have locally elected councillors, these councillors find themselves pressured into making decision Council/CEO want, and that Councillors are only the puppets in making decision, but also the person/s of blame for such decisions since they voted, even though they may only be voting to appease the Council/CEO. Councillors when elected often lose their individual voice and/or opinion to become part of the regime covered by code of conduct rules stifling their individual voice should they peak against the regime.
- Some councillors don't attend committee meetings. Prepare for meetings. Sit quiet and just vote with the purple circle
- Lots of grooming takes place with new councillors
- While Councillors are tasked with accurately relaying the decisions of Council, they should at all times have the freedom to express their personal viewpoints to electors. There should be no attempt by anyone to stifle the views of individual members, irrespective if they are a minority in their views.
- It would be appreciated if our councillors would support the majority of what the people want and NOT the minority.
- Wouldn't it be good if all councillors did all these things with community uppermost in their minds?
- Greater consultation and accountability to the community.
- While OCM live streaming (and recordings) will have a positive impact on this, there is need for a greater capture of OCM proceedings. (Verbatim record public questions and deputations, summary of council discussion on items and recording of elected members reasoning for absolute majority decisions)

- re provides leadership and guidance to the community in the district: - How can a Councillor provide "leadership" when the Act prevents him or her from being anything other than a "follower"
- Councillors should treat their constituents with respect and actually meet them. They should conduct information sessions at regular intervals, say 3 months, and as required. In a ward system councillors should consider the interests of their ward rather than just reverting to the protection of that catch-all statement that they represent all ratepayers in the LGA.
- Opportunities for leadership development
- Once again include Mayor or President
- it is very clear that some EMs see themselves as representative of a particular street/sporting or community group and only actively participate and contribute to those matters - this seems to lead to "directions" to the administration on things that should be done to resolve issues in these areas ahead of agreed priorities
- Agree. how this is to be monitored or measured and reported on will complete the "circle" of effectiveness of a Councillor.
- Add that failure to do so by elected representatives of any decision that financially rewards favours given should have publicized heavy penalties and dismissal.
- Must be able to freely express their opinions and vote on important decisions that they currently are forced to exclude themselves from
- Elected member training must be mandatory
- Elected members must follow professional advice from city officers and listen to resident submissions and delegations. Residents need to be represented- currently it's only business, developers and corporate entities that are non-residents who are being heard because of the non-resident double vote franchise at election time.
- Councillors are conflicted in representing both ward and district electors.
- Councillors should provide support and guidance to their ward constituents - it would be an open conflict for both Mayor and Councillors to each separately provide leadership
- Facilitate communications is undefined and shown to cause conflict
- to be active and contributing is meaningless in light of the election requirements
- performing other functions is meaningless without such detail
- skills and knowledge is a function of election and is meaningless as a role
- a Councillor must support the Mayor in his role as requested by the mayor as necessary in his absence
- Ensure that the purpose and intent of the Act are applied to all Councillor matters, responsibilities, and roles

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# Local Government Act Reforms Community Survey



## Theme 5: Greater Role Clarity: CEO Role

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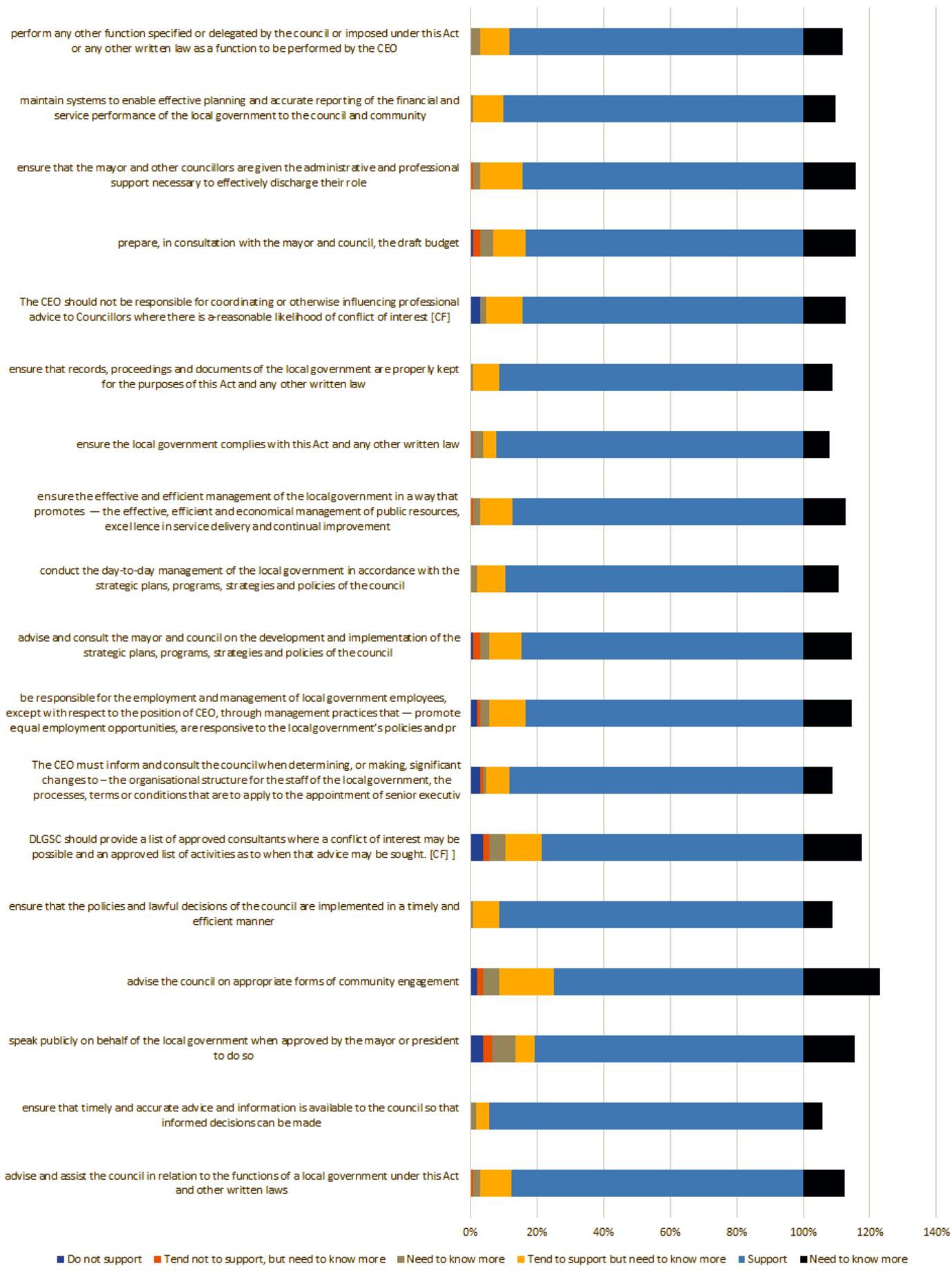
### Additional Comments - Theme 5: Greater Role Clarity: CEO Role

- very important the CEO role is able to be better managed by the Council/Councillors. A tier 1 CEO is paid a very large amount of money and should be working from the council offices full 5 days a week (not from home over any extended period). A CEO should be more open, transparent and accountable rather than showing above reproach. A good CEO will lead by example, not instil fear within council employees and hence creating a high turnover. A key KPI to any CEO should be based around staff turnover rates during their employ - as that can be a very important indicator to their character and leadership qualities. Also, a key inclusion with any performance review is a general survey by council employees as to the CEO and their capability, not just by selected councillors who can sway the outcome of any review.
- CEO wags the tail in Rockingham
- Increases to the annual budget which includes projects over \$1m include whole of life costing and return on investment summary. Annual budget includes cost reduction/saving projects.
- I feel the CEO should live in the Shire they work for to gain and understand the people's needs and values. The CEO should not be working towards their own agenda e.g., development thereby liaising with developers.
- And who would pay for the consultant where there is a conflict if CEO interest? The CEO?
- Given the ongoing high number of LG CEO's being exposed for questionable conduct it appears greater oversight is needed.
- Often poor conduct is not being addressed until after serious detriment to the communities, often many red flags have also been ignored. There appears to be little consequence to CEO's and/or elected members when wrong going is detected.
- There is a large power imbalance between elected members and their employee- CEO's.
- CEO's clearly have too much control of the local government's information and resources, especially when the LG in not being enforced.

## Theme 5: Greater Role Clarity: CEO Role

Theme 5: Greater Role Clarity: CEO Role It is proposed to amend the Local Government Act to specify the roles and responsibilities of the CEO. The following are the recommendations from the Local Government Review Panel May 2020 + community feedback [CF]	Total Respondents	Do not support	Tend not to support, but need to know more	Need to know more	Tend to support but need to know more	Support	Need to know more
advise and assist the council in relation to the functions of a local government under this Act and other written laws	105	0%	1%	2%	10%	<b>88%</b>	12%
ensure that timely and accurate advice and information is available to the council so that informed decisions can be made	105	0%	0%	2%	4%	<b>94%</b>	6%
speak publicly on behalf of the local government when approved by the mayor or president to do so	104	4%	3%	7%	6%	<b>81%</b>	15%
advise the council on appropriate forms of community engagement	104	2%	2%	5%	16%	<b>75%</b>	23%
ensure that the policies and lawful decisions of the council are implemented in a timely and efficient manner	104	0%	0%	1%	8%	<b>91%</b>	9%
DLGSC should provide a list of approved consultants where a conflict of interest may be possible and an approved list of activities as to when that advice may be sought. [CF]	103	4%	2%	5%	11%	<b>79%</b>	17%
The CEO must inform and consult the council when determining, or making, significant changes to – the organisational structure for the staff of the local government, the processes, terms or conditions that are to apply to the appointment of senior executive officers and the appraisal scheme that is to apply to senior executive officers	103	3%	1%	1%	7%	<b>88%</b>	9%
be responsible for the employment and management of local government employees, except with respect to the position of CEO, through management practices that — promote equal employment opportunities, are responsive to the local government’s policies and priorities and provide a safe working environment	103	2%	1%	3%	11%	<b>83%</b>	15%
advise and consult the mayor and council on the development and implementation of the strategic plans, programs, strategies and policies of the council	103	1%	2%	3%	10%	<b>84%</b>	15%
conduct the day-to-day management of the local government in accordance with the strategic plans, programs, strategies and policies of the council	103	0%	0%	2%	9%	<b>89%</b>	11%
ensure the effective and efficient management of the local government in a way that promotes — the effective, efficient and economical management of public resources, excellence in service delivery and continual improvement	103	0%	1%	2%	10%	<b>87%</b>	13%
ensure the local government complies with this Act and any other written law	103	0%	1%	3%	4%	<b>92%</b>	8%
ensure that records, proceedings and documents of the local government are properly kept for the purposes of this Act and any other written law	103	0%	0%	1%	8%	<b>91%</b>	9%
The CEO should not be responsible for coordinating or otherwise influencing professional advice to Councillors where there is a reasonable likelihood of conflict of interest [CF]	102	3%	0%	2%	11%	<b>84%</b>	13%
prepare, in consultation with the mayor and council, the draft budget	102	1%	2%	4%	10%	<b>83%</b>	16%
ensure that the mayor and other councillors are given the administrative and professional support necessary to effectively discharge their role	102	0%	1%	2%	13%	<b>84%</b>	16%
maintain systems to enable effective planning and accurate reporting of the financial and service performance of the local government to the council and community	102	0%	0%	1%	9%	<b>90%</b>	10%
perform any other function specified or delegated by the council or imposed under this Act or any other written law as a function to be performed by the CEO	102	0%	0%	3%	9%	<b>88%</b>	12%

### Theme 5: Greater Role Clarity: CEO



# Local Government Act Reforms Community Survey



## Theme 6: Improved Financial Management and Reporting

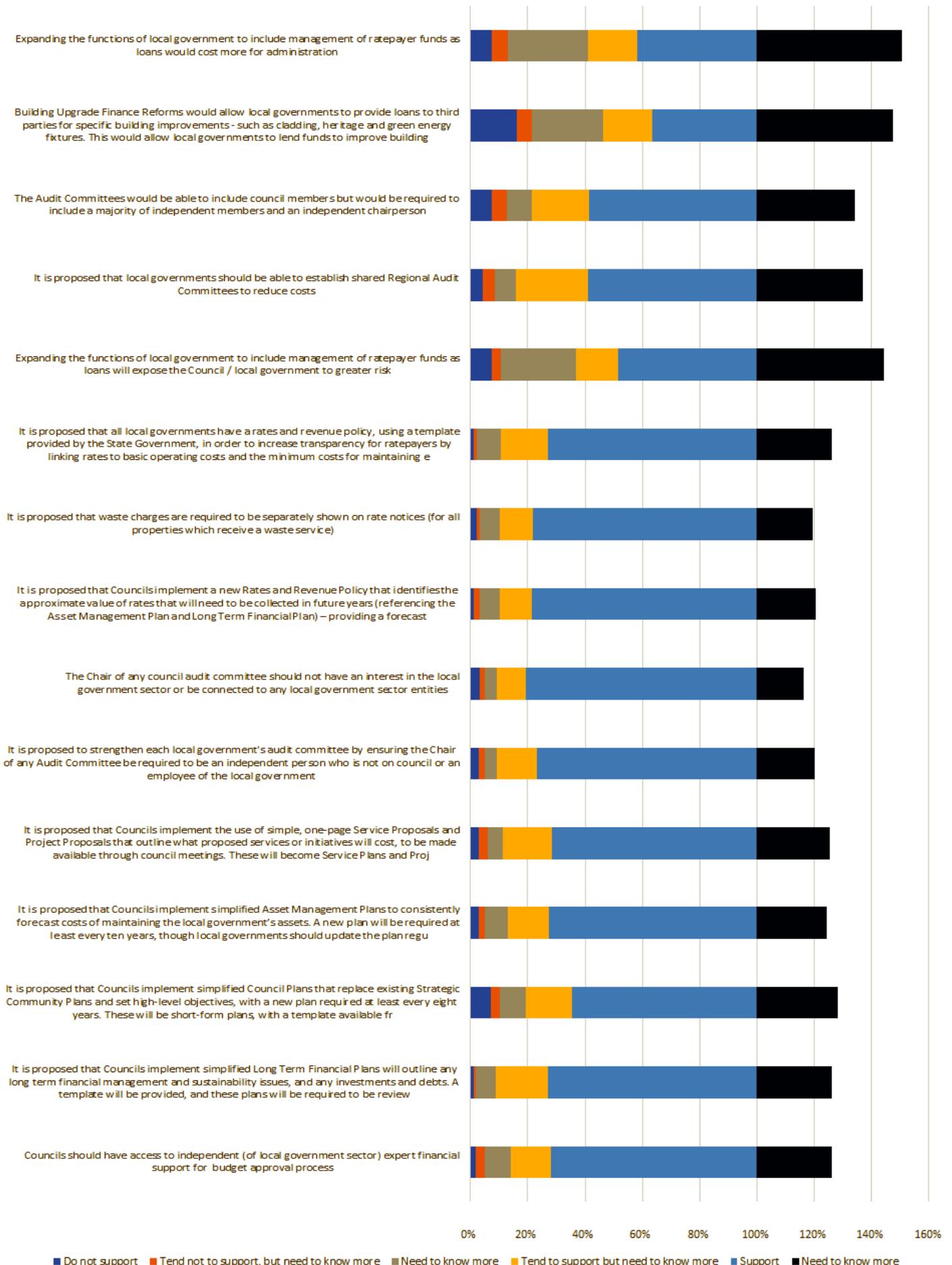
Presented by **Local Government Reform**   
 Public group · 2.3K members  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/localgovernmentreform>

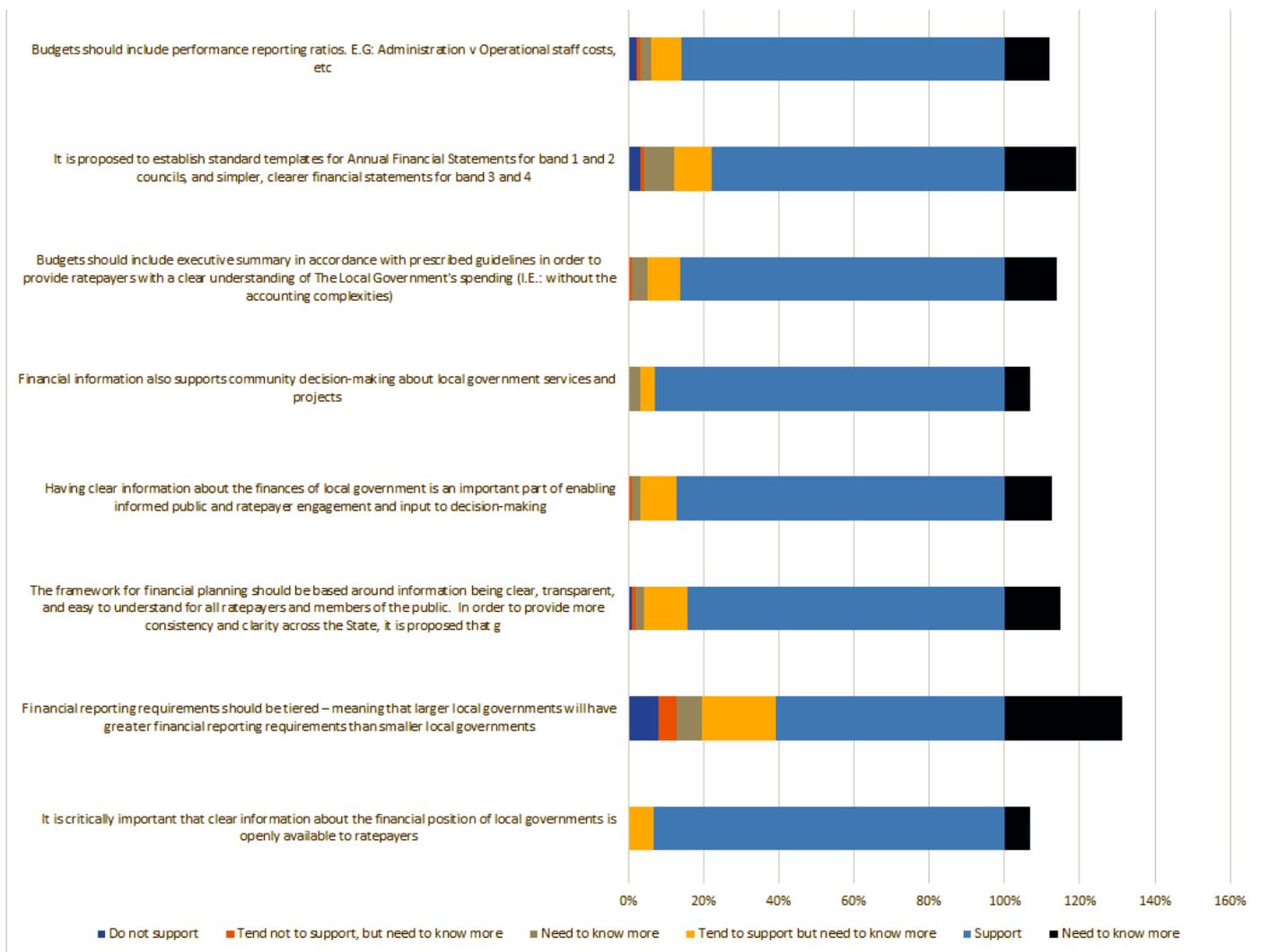
Supported by  **WARRA** WEST AUSTRALIAN RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

Theme 6: Improved Financial Management and Reporting	Total Respondents	Do not support	Tend not to support, but need to know more	Need to know more	Tend to support but need to know more	Support	Need to know more
It is critically important that clear information about the financial position of local governments is openly available to ratepayers	104	0%	0%	0%	7%	<b>93%</b>	7%
Financial reporting requirements should be tiered – meaning that larger local governments will have greater financial reporting requirements than smaller local governments	102	8%	5%	7%	<b>20%</b>	61%	31%
The framework for financial planning should be based around information being clear, transparent, and easy to understand for all ratepayers and members of the public. In order to provide more consistency and clarity across the State, it is proposed that greater use of templates is introduced to make planning and reporting clearer and simpler, providing greater transparency for ratepayers	102	1%	1%	2%	12%	<b>84%</b>	15%
Having clear information about the finances of local government is an important part of enabling informed public and ratepayer engagement and input to decision-making	102	0%	1%	2%	10%	<b>87%</b>	13%
Financial information also supports community decision-making about local government services and projects	101	0%	0%	3%	4%	<b>93%</b>	7%
Budgets should include executive summary in accordance with prescribed guidelines in order to provide ratepayers with a clear understanding of The Local Government's spending (I.E.: without the accounting complexities)	101	0%	1%	4%	9%	<b>86%</b>	14%
It is proposed to establish standard templates for Annual Financial Statements for band 1 and 2 councils, and simpler, clearer financial statements for band 3 and 4	100	3%	1%	8%	10%	<b>78%</b>	19%
Budgets should include performance reporting ratios. E.G: Administration v Operational staff costs, etc	100	2%	1%	3%	8%	<b>86%</b>	12%
Councils should have access to independent (of local government sector) expert financial support for budget approval process	100	2%	3%	9%	14%	<b>72%</b>	26%
It is proposed that Councils implement simplified Long Term Financial Plans will outline any long term financial management and sustainability issues, and any investments and debts. A template will be provided, and these plans will be required to be reviewed in detail at least every four years	100	1%	1%	7%	18%	<b>73%</b>	26%

It is proposed that Councils implement simplified Council Plans that replace existing Strategic Community Plans and set high-level objectives, with a new plan required at least every eight years. These will be short-form plans, with a template available from the DLGSC	7	7%	3%	9%	16%	<b>65%</b>	28%
It is proposed that Councils implement simplified Asset Management Plans to consistently forecast costs of maintaining the local government's assets. A new plan will be required at least every ten years, though local governments should update the plan regularly if the local government gains or disposes of major assets (e.g. land, buildings, or roads). A template will be provided, and methods of valuations will be simplified to reduce red tape	3	3%	2%	8%	14%	<b>73%</b>	24%
It is proposed that Councils implement the use of simple, one-page Service Proposals and Project Proposals that outline what proposed services or initiatives will cost, to be made available through council meetings. These will become Service Plans and Project Plans added to the yearly budget if approved by council. This provides clear transparency for what the functions and initiatives of the local government cost to deliver.	3	3%	3%	5%	17%	<b>72%</b>	25%
It is proposed to strengthen each local government's audit committee by ensuring the Chair of any Audit Committee be required to be an independent person who is not on council or an employee of the local government	3	3%	2%	4%	14%	<b>77%</b>	20%
The Chair of any council audit committee should not have an interest in the local government sector or be connected to any local government sector entities	3	3%	2%	4%	10%	<b>81%</b>	16%
It is proposed that Councils implement a new Rates and Revenue Policy that identifies the approximate value of rates that will need to be collected in future years (referencing the Asset Management Plan and Long Term Financial Plan) – providing a forecast to ratepayers (updated at least every four years)	1	1%	2%	7%	11%	<b>79%</b>	20%
It is proposed that waste charges are required to be separately shown on rate notices (for all properties which receive a waste service)	2	2%	1%	7%	11%	<b>78%</b>	20%
It is proposed that all local governments have a rates and revenue policy, using a template provided by the State Government, in order to increase transparency for ratepayers by linking rates to basic operating costs and the minimum costs for maintaining essential infrastructure and to provide ratepayers with a forecast of future costs of providing local government services.	1	1%	1%	8%	17%	<b>73%</b>	26%
Expanding the functions of local government to include management of ratepayer funds as loans will expose the Council / local government to greater risk	7	7%	3%	26%	15%	<b>48%</b>	44%
It is proposed that local governments should be able to establish shared Regional Audit Committees to reduce costs	4	4%	4%	7%	25%	<b>59%</b>	37%
The Audit Committees would be able to include council members but would be required to include a majority of independent members and an independent chairperson	7	7%	5%	9%	20%	<b>59%</b>	34%
Building Upgrade Finance Reforms would allow local governments to provide loans to third parties for specific building improvements - such as cladding, heritage and green energy fixtures. This would allow local governments to lend funds to improve buildings within their district.	15	16%	5%	25%	17%	<b>37%</b>	47%
Expanding the functions of local government to include management of ratepayer funds as loans would cost more for administration	7	8%	5%	28%	17%	<b>42%</b>	51%

## Theme 6: Improved Financial Reporting





### Additional Comments - Theme 6: Improved Financial Management and Reporting

- review periods of any plans should not exceed 4 years. Times are changing rapidly, and all reviews should be constant and within 2-4 years being the time frames of most councillors. Regular reviews would enable much quicker reviews rather than going back over 8-10 years of data.
- Independent audit committee essential. Rockingham stacked with purple circle
- Accounting cost codes should be consistent across the sector in order to facilitate benchmarking between Councils.
- DLGSC to initiate forensic audits to 6 councils in a calendar year and publish results.
- Selection of councils to be forensically audited is random.
- Must be careful that new iniydo not mean an excuse to increase staff.
- Any changes to current reporting formats e.g., introduction of templates and standardised reports should not be onerous or time consuming for staff as this will waste rate payers money. If what they are doing now is working and providing the information required, this should remain as it is.
- Getting answers about rates are a standard response with no answers
- Consistent reporting and templates across the sector of LG monthly financial reporting (including cheque runs) to allow greater comparisons between LG's.

- An expansion and more timely information on the My Council website.
- Consistent reporting and templates across the sector of LG annual financial reporting to allow greater comparisons between LG's.
- Far greater resources for financial audits.
- Ability for councils to engage independent financial and audit advice.
- Councils and community to have far greater involvement in creating budgets.
- Recording of Audit Committee meetings.
- Strict enforcement of 5.92 of the LG Act.
- Council Plans (Ex Community Plan need to be reviewed every 4 years not 8 years as this is too long. Economic times change quickly.
- Western Australian has had more than 23 enquiries, reports from the Crime & Corruption Commission, WA Dept of Local Government, WA Parliamentary Inspectors and a WA Parliamentary enquiry. These involved direct enquires into Shire of Wiluna, Subiaco, City of Perth (3 times), City of Cockburn (2 times), Town of Cambridge, Toodyay, Carnarvon, Perenjori, Melville, Ashburton, East Pilbara, Port Hedland, Roebourne, Halls Creek (2 times), Busselton, Exmouth, Wanneroo, Bayswater. There is also mention of Misconduct Risk in the Local Government Procurement (2015) at the City of Stirling, Cottesloe, Murchison, Kalamunda and Bayswater,
- The City of Perth has had three enquiries along with two enquiries at the City of Cockburn and Shire of Halls Creek.
- The City of Perth enquiry cost \$7.8 Million and the cost of the 23 enquiries must run into the hundreds of millions of dollars.
- Most failures in the WA Local Government are due to lack of due diligence with their Governance Policies and Procedures.
- The WA Local Government Minister must endorse the WA Auditor General carry out performance audits of all WA Local Government Councils. We request that the WA Minister use the Victorian Local Government Performance system to ensure all Western Australian Councils are measuring and reporting their performance in a consistent way. The results can be uploaded to the "My Council" website which enables Councils and the community to view the performance of "like" Councils against their performance indicators.
- The WA Auditor General Report - Regulation and Support of the Local Government Sector (2021) It states
- We recognize that there has been a significant LG reform agenda in recent years. However, the Department is not providing efficient and effective regulation and support to the LG sector and lacks fundamental aspects of a good regulatory framework.
- It is not effectively using the information it has available to assess the risk of non-compliance in the LG sector or to identify the areas where support is most required. Internally the Department is not addressing risks to its own delivery of regulatory and support services, some of which were identified as having significant gaps in a 2018 internal audit report and remain unresolved. It does not have a plan that links its regulatory and

support activities for LG entities into achieving its overall objectives for the sector and does not have targets and measures in place to track its delivery and performance.

- This means that the Department's regulatory intervention is largely reactive to emerging issues, rather than preventing breakdowns in governance. Not providing timely advice or effective capability-building increases the risk that LG entities will not provide good government and services to their communities.
- The WA State Government must have a duty to properly fund the WA Department of Local Government to perform its statutory duties.
- Unless the Dept of Local government is properly funded more Councils will fail.
- re The Audit Committees would be able to include council members but would be required to include a majority of independent members and an independent chairperson" - Audit Committee meetings should be public and allow public questions. Hiding behind "confidentiality" is BS
- Audits should be performance based - i.e., is the money spent achieving its purpose?
- I support amalgamation of small councils so that means we do not require different laws
- Need to avoid a one size fits all - the goals e.g. sustainable financial management should be clear, but flexibility allowed to enable Councils to achieve them in a way that is relevant to their particular circumstances
- I see a role for a "new WALGA" in setting financial policy and financial and auditing resource access. The concept of "Forward Estimates" as part of Councils Budget reporting, provides for better future policy and budget planning and accountability.
- no comment
- If all this means employing considerably more staff it will also mean more red tape, more slowing down of government and may have the opposite effect to what needs to be achieved.
- The CEO salary should reflect the need for the CEO to be able to financially manage council resources.
- All persons with a wage over \$100000,pa should be noted in financial statements. All payments over \$1000, in any month should be itemised in financial statements
- Financial management is dependent of functional management and its oversight
- My observations are that providing money to clubs, including loans, is fraught as dominant factions on council will approve/disapprove, or it just will or want get up generally and certainly doesn't appear to correspond to any indexing of the whole per needs within the community. This would need a great deal more detailing, to ensure that it isn't just slush funding. I don't disagree with the idea of loans to improve buildings within councils, but (a) are staff best suited to judge? (b) who pays for the assessment and preparation of feasibility studies relating to clubs, sports groups that want funding (again, this gets very uneven with councillors voting that monies be made available to some to cover their feasibility costs, even) .... a very uneven field this one.

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## One Voice for WA project

### Local Government Act Reforms Community Survey

For: Local Government Reform Facebook Group  
Administrator: John Bell  
[jbe31029@bigpond.net.au](mailto:jbe31029@bigpond.net.au)  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/localgovernmentreform>

Managed by: Daniel Hanley  
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Supported by: West Australian Residents and Ratepayers Association  
Deputy Chairperson  
Simon Wheeler  
[simon@simonwheeler.net.au](mailto:simon@simonwheeler.net.au)  
<https://www.facebook.com/WARRAInc>

Report by: Daniel Hanley  
Analysis Snapshot by: Andrew Main

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