



Practical Reforms for Local Government in South Australia

By Councillor John Woodward, West Torrens

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All views my own and not that of West Torrens Council

LGA Reforms

▶ Fairer use of Waste Levy

- ▶ 80% is quarantined for specific waste management purposes, including strategic state-wide initiatives by the State Government in conjunction with Local Government. Of the quarantined amount, guaranteed amount of the Levy is returned to each Council each year to be spent specifically on waste improvement initiatives.
- ▶ **WHY:** the Waste Levy is paid by all South Australia and should be used to improve waste management outcomes and not for other purposes. Removes the expensive and uncertain process of Council making grant applications to State Government, which are often time consuming and unsuccessful. Helps improve budget, business planning and long term financial plan.

▶ Development Levies Returned to Council of Origin

- ▶ 80% of levies paid by developers as part of the Open Space Contribution Fee should go directly to the associated Council for that development.
- ▶ **WHY:** should not be a cross subsidy between Councils, the money needs to be spent and re-invested into the communities where it was levied. It is also expensive and time consuming for Council to submit grant funding from State Government. Having a guaranteed return to each Council will help improve budget, business planning and long term financial plan..

LGA Reforms

▶ NRM Levy Collected by State Government

- ▶ The NRM Levy is used entirely at the discretion of the State Government and often bears very little connection to the source of collection. Either an agreed amount is returned to each local Council each year or the State Government collects it on its own behalf.
- ▶ **WHY:** it is inefficient and pointless for Council to collect revenue on behalf of the State Government, the collection fee paid by the State Government could be saved and the NRM Levy collected as part of the ESL or by SA Water.

▶ Establish and Publish Performance Rankings

- ▶ Benchmark **financial** and **service** delivery performance, creating a yearly league table, ranking each Council's performance.
- ▶ **WHY:** provide the community with information that shows comparative performance of their Council, to assist with building a case for change for under-performing Councils.

LGA Reforms

▶ Optional Electronic Voting

- ▶ Allowing voters the option to choose to vote electronically rather than postal vote.
- ▶ **WHY:** increases level of voting, saves time and money. e.g. Postal voting is time consuming, expensive, inefficient, and a barrier to increasing community participation in elections.

▶ Minimise Supplementary Elections

- ▶ No supplementary elections if there is a 3rd candidate at last election and they are prepared to accept role. Any Mayor vacancy would still require a supplementary election.
- ▶ Supplementary election is required if 3rd candidate does not want role, or if no 3rd candidate. Continue with practice of no supplementary elections or replacement Elected Members (including Mayor) in 4th year.
- ▶ **WHY:** supplementary elections are expensive and of low interest to the community.