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To Whom It May Concern

Local Government Act Review Submission

Golden Plains Shire would like to make this submission to the Local Government Act Review.

As a member of the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV), Golden Plains has participated in workshops and discussions regarding various aspects of the current Act and the review Terms of Reference.

While there will be diverse views across the sector, it is important that a new Act presents a balance view and is able to be administered by all Councils; small, large, rural and metropolitan.

It is also critical that a new Act is able to articulate its requirements in a clear and unambiguous manner to reduce the risk of unintended deviation from the Act.

It is for this and other reasons, that Golden Plains supports the submission from the MAV.

It encapsulates some of the values important to this Council:

- Elevating the status of local government in the State of Victoria;
- Recognising local government as a key provider of a diverse range of services;
- Managing compliance through a clearer and unambiguous legislative framework;
- Delegating non-compliance to the various regulatory bodies;
- Streamlining the planning and reporting framework to what is appropriate for reporting from one tier of government to another;
- Maintaining the existing rating powers without being subject to a rates cap;
- Providing an enabling approach to procurement and delivery services which supports collaboration; and
- Promoting clarity between the roles of the CEO and the Mayor.

Golden Plains looks forward to ongoing consultation in developing an Act that allows local government to continue to deliver programs and services vital to the local community.

Yours sincerely

Rod Nicholls
Chief Executive Officer