

Hello,

You have been sent this article link from Your Council Your Community via (<http://www.yourcouncilyourcommunity.vic.gov.au>)

To view the article, click on <http://awe.sm/iO5H6>

Submission to Discussion Paper

Name	Alan
Suburb	Mentone
Age*	
Gender*	Male

**Please see the last page of this document for our terms and conditions around privacy of your information*

If you work in an organisation/council, please provide the following information:

Organisation/council name:	
Position/job title	
Are you providing this submission on behalf of yourself or the organisation?	Myself / Organisation

On the following pages are questions on each chapter of the discussion paper to assist you in the preparation of your submission. In addition, there is space at the end of the document to add your own views/comments on any matters relating to the Local Government Act review.

Discussion paper questions

Chapter 2 – The role of councils

1. What should the key roles and functions of council be?
2. Does describing the key objectives, roles and functions of councils in the *Local Government Act 1989* ('the Act') assist councillors, council staff and members of the community understand the role that councils play? Should these key objectives, roles and functions be retained in the Act or revised in any way?
3. What powers are required by councils to perform these roles and functions? Should there be any limitations to council powers?
4. Which provisions in the Act should be normative (setting out desirable behaviour) general (setting out broad principles to be followed) and which should set out prescriptive (detailed) requirements?
5. Should the legislation provide consequences such as penalties or sanctions, for any non-compliance with either the general and prescriptive provisions? If so, what form should these take?
6. Do you have any other questions/comments about the content in this chapter?

Response:

1. Yes they need to adhere to Human Rights prior to passing any Local Laws.
2. Greater focus on Councillors Votes in motions for and against something.
3. Mayor should only get One Vote.
- 4 YES Huge Automatic financial penalties from own pocket
- 5 Sack the Council with no right of appeal.
6. Introduce performance based standards set by ratepayers. The Current system is not good enough.

Chapter 3 – How councils are elected

1. What are the key elements of a system aimed at ensuring the integrity of council elections that should be included in the Act?
2. To ensure integrity of the electoral system should additional powers be provided to:
 - a) the Minister?
 - b) the Victorian Electoral Commission?
 - c) council CEOs?
3. Do you have any other questions/comments about the content in this chapter?

Response:

1. Answer 2.(B) VEC

Chapter 4 – How councils operate

1. What are the critical elements of a council's operations that should be governed by the Act (e.g. requirements for mayoral elections, notice of, and requirements for open meetings)?
2. What penalties or sanctions should be imposed on councils who do not comply with the requirements relating to their operations?
3. Do you have any other questions/comments about the content in this chapter?

Response:

1.
Agree with 1 proposal.

Chapter 5 – Planning and reporting

1. What requirements should be imposed in the Act on councils in relation to planning and reporting on their strategy, budget and operations?
2. Can council planning and reporting processes be streamlined? If so, how?
3. What rights should be granted to ratepayers to better contribute to council planning and reporting processes?
4. What sanctions should be imposed on councils not complying with planning and reporting requirements?
5. Do you have any other questions/comments about the content in this chapter?

Response:

1. Planning application fees are high and should be much lower.

Chapter 6 – Council rates and charges

1. Is the current method of declaring rates and charges based on “land” still appropriate?
2. What powers do councils require in relation to levying rates and charges?
3. What obligations or restrictions should be imposed on councils in relation to these powers?
4. What rights should rate-payers have in relation to the exercise of councils powers in relation to levying rates and charges?
5. Should there be detailed legislative provisions regarding processes associated with levying rates and charges? If so, are the current processes for levying rates and charges in the Act appropriate? If not, what changes should be made?
6. What sanctions should be imposed on councils failing to comply with the requirements relating to levying rates and charges?
7. Do you have any other questions/comments about the content in this chapter?

Response:

1. No. Encouragement of NAV rating system would be better particularly for older long term dwelling holders.
2. Councils should give incentives to large land holder that grow own Fruit and Vegetables.

3 Maximum Ratio for staff to rating Income.

Fixed rates no higher than CPI adjustment.

Green recycle discount on rates and collection bins.

Have Ratepayer Veto over Council rates and charges Annually.

6/Require Those councilors than voted for motion/s deemed against public interest face large financial personal penalties.

Waste watch ratepayer committees should be established and oversea Council spending.

Disclose to public cost of Ratepayers overseas trips and Catering costs of Council functions.

Ban purchases of Murals and Art works which costs ratepayers Dollars.

Limit function costs and junkets costs.

When dwelling by the beach in Bayside area under Bayside City Council are approximately 50 per cent less than what Ratepayers of City of Kingston are required to pay.

It is outrageous that City of Kingston Ratepayers are charged 50 per PLUS over and above what a Ratepayer in Bayside would be charged for Rates.

Comparing like with like and similar CIV and NAV values.

YET B.C.C does not have the same Rateable opportunities as K.C.C

Kingston has Large Shopping Complexes EG Southland Shopping Centre.

High Number and greater Density Multi-Unit Developments

Vast Number of High Income low cost Industrial Estates.

Massive amounts of Warehouse and Showrooms Zonnings.

Kilometers and Kilometers of Beachfront rateable properties.

K.C.C does not disclose rateable Income Shopping Centre Complexes to public.

Hard to obtain information on Big \$\$\$ Income generators from K.C.C

One would not be surprised if K.C.C rates were DOUBLE of Bayside C.C after adjustment of the above. OUTRAGEOUS

K.C.C Boundary needs to be moved to along Nepean Highway. Thereby, Ratepayers would come Under B.C.C and benefit having lower rates and Larger Capital works Programs.

Chapter 7 – Service delivery and financial decision-making

1. What powers do councils need to undertake their financial decision-making functions?
2. What obligations or restrictions should be imposed on councils in relation to their financial decision-making functions?
3. Should the Act contain detailed processes regarding councils financial decision-making? If so, what sanctions should apply for non-compliance with these requirements?
4. Do you have any other questions/comments about the content in this chapter?

Response:

1.

Proper accountability

Introduce say 5/10 per cent cost cutting per year across council. Where this is achieved State Govt. rewards them.

Control spending

Set proper standards of performance.

Limit expansion of staff. I believe the current system encourages Army recruitment system. Eg. Staff member gets promotion, Extra Higher Income and benefits as a result.

NOTE>The flow on effect of high rates and charges makes water rates even a greater burden.

Water rates should not be linked Council rates. Especially with Low income and single family dwellings.

Kingston City Council is a classic example.

Costing Ratepayers unnecessary expenses and charges.

Currently Personal representation before Council Budget Audit Committee is a joke.

In fact gave up, as it was a waste of effort and time.

Chapter 8 – Councillor conduct, offences and enforcement

1. Do standards of councillor conduct need to be improved? If so, how can this be achieved?
2. What powers do councils need to deal with instances of councillor misconduct?
3. Does the system of councillor conduct panels need to be improved? If so, how?
4. Is there a need for additional offences to be included in the Act? If so, what are they?
5. Is there a need to improve investigation and enforcement of the Act in any way? If so, how?
6. Do you have any other questions/comments about the content in this chapter?

Response:

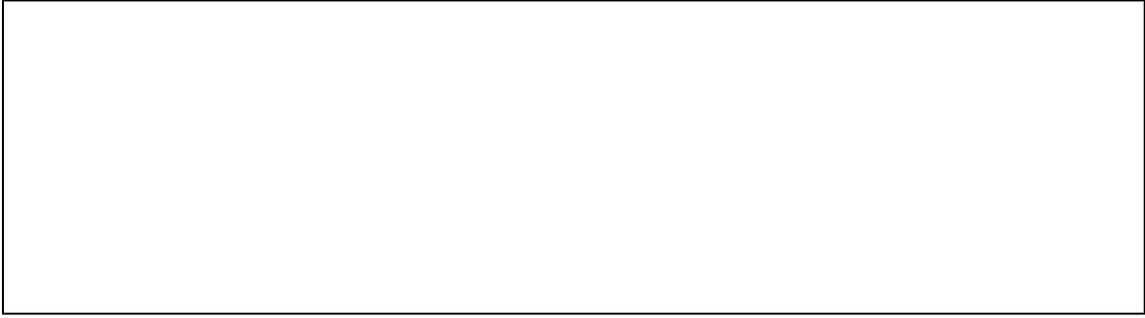
1. Yes Including Communication with prompt replies to ratepayer concerns.
2. Not giving the forwarding on mail box service to ratepayer.
3. Personal Ward Councilor follow up and prompt reply is needed .
4. Still waiting for reply after 4 months and many Phone calls for KCC Councillor.
5. Financial and Imprisonment
6. More Ratepayer Input and Overseeing
- 7 Financial and Imprisonment

Yes Outlaw Bullying by Council officers. Especially by-law Inspectors to member of Public.

By-law Council officer/s need to get facts correct before taking action.

They admit to being wrong but still to Harass and Bully ratepayer.

One may say Victimization as a result of contacting ward Councilor.



Chapter 9 – Ministerial powers

1. Should the role of the minister be described in the Act? And if so, how should this be described?
2. What powers should be provided to the minister in the Act in relation to:
 - a) the structure of the sector (i.e. circumstances in which new councils are established or existing councils amalgamated, numbers of councillors etc)?
 - b) to ensure councils comply with the Act?
 - c) to ensure the integrity of governance and standards of behaviour?
 - d) What penalties should be included in the Act in relation to councils not complying with the exercise of the minister's powers?
3. Do you have any other questions/comments about the content in this chapter?

Response:

1. YES
 2. Quicker process to sack Councils
- Vic.Crime Act needs to apply to local Councils and it's staff.

Chapter 10 – Harmonisation of the Local Government Act

1. What aspects of the Act should be amended to better harmonise with related legislation?
2. How can council responsibilities in relation to other legislation be made clearer?
3. Are there provisions in the Act that could be improved to clarify their interaction with other legislation? How could they be improved?
4. Is there other Victorian legislation that inappropriately impacts on provisions under the current Act that could be improved or clarified? How could they be improved?
5. Does the Act contain any matters that should be transferred to other Victorian legislation? If so, why?
6. Do you have any other questions/comments about the content in this chapter?

Response:

1.

Any other comments?

Do you have any other questions/comments not raised in the above chapters?

Response:

1. I feel the Minister needs to move quickly and Investigate the K.C.C
2. Needs to reduce staff and cut Rates at least inline with Bayside City Council.

Give Ratepayers of large dwellings option of Rating property ON NAV basis not CIV.

Cut Penalty rate Interest and offer what the actual council pays for it finance.

Introduce Hardship provisions for struggling Ratepayers. Eg. Interest Free Vacation.

Wastage seems to be a Huge problem Local Government in Many areas.

With the pending Economic downturn pending every Dollar will COUNT.



<http://www.yourcouncilyourcommunity.vic.gov.au>