Review Roadmap

The future of local government review

Let's All Shape the Future of Local Government.

Tasmanian Government

The Tasmanian Government has commissioned the Local Government Board to undertake a broad review into the future of local government in Tasmania. The review will look at the fundamentals of the local government system: the role it should play in supporting communities, the services it should be delivering, and the most effective ways of doing so.

At the end of the Review, the Board will recommend to the Government the reforms it believes are needed. The end goal: to deliver a local government sector that can meet the challenges and opportunities that Tasmanians will face in the coming decades.

WHY DO WE NEED A REVIEW?

Building a more robust and capable system of local government

Tasmania is experiencing significant changes. Our population is growing in some areas, declining in others, and is getting older overall. This will impact the demand for council services, and the number of ratepayers paying for those services. The way people live and work also continues to change, which will place new and different demands on land use, transport infrastructure, and local services.

These changes are already having an impact on local government. It is important that we have a shared vision and plan for how our system of local government should evolve and adapt so that it has the skills, resources, and capability to support local communities into the future.

We need to start work now on the transition to the new systems and approaches, that we, as a community, believe are necessary.

A community–driven process

Whether or not we realise it, each of us relies on local government services every day – whether it's for waste and recycling, parks and playgrounds, footpaths and roads, or other services supporting the welllbeing of communities. Councils act as a voice for their local communities – advocating for the delivery of services and support, including from other tiers of government.

Councils also make important decisions about building, health and the environment which can shape the character, amenity, and economic activity of their local areas.

Councils represent their communities, so we all play a part in the future of local government. To succeed, this review must be owned by the whole community. Your input is vital.

MEET THE BOARD

Experienced, Community-Oriented, and Future-Focused

The Board is made up of eminent Tasmanians who understand local government and are passionate about improving community governance, wellbeing, and local service delivery. Members bring a broad range of skills and perspectives to the Review but are united in their commitment to make a positive difference for the people of Tasmania.

The Hon Sue Smith AM

Sue's remarkable career in local and state government spans four decades. Sue was elected Mayor of the Central Coast Council in 1993, following council reforms. Ms Smith became the first female President of the Legislative Council in 2008. Other roles include Commissioner of the Glenorchy City Council, Chair of the Local Government Code of Conduct Panel and Chair of Marine and Safety Tasmania.

Ric De Santi

Ric was Tasmania's Deputy Auditor-General from 2006 to 2021, successfully overseeing significant audits across local government. Ric served as a Director of CPA Australia from 2017 to 2021, becoming Deputy President in 2020; is a member of CPA Australia's Tasmanian Divisional Council; a Commissioner on Catholic Education Tasmania; and is a member of the Sorell and Glenorchy City Council Audit Panels, as well as Chair of the Launceston City Council Audit Panel.

Paul West

Paul has 20 years' experience as general manager of Tasmanian councils, most recently at Devonport City Council (2014-2019). Mr West is a former President of Local Government Professionals Australia (Tasmania), was made a Fellow of that organisation in 2004, and was National President in 2010. Paul was made a life member of the Local Government Association of Tasmania in 2018 and a life member of Local Government Professionals Australia (Tasmania) in 2020.

The Hon Pam Allan

Pam has extensive experience in state and local government and planning, having been a member of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly and serving as Minister for the Environment in the Carr Government. Pam is the Chair of NRM North Management Committee and an Adjunct Professor in the School of Geography, Planning and Spatial Sciences at the University of Tasmania. Pam was a member of the reference group for the Tasmanian Government's Local Government Legislation Review.

Kym Goodes

Kym has leadership experience in the Tasmanian not-for-profit and government sectors. Kym was Chief Executive Officer of the Tasmanian Council for Social Service; was a member of the Premier's Economic and Social Recovery Advisory Council and is a Director of Brand Tasmania. Kym has held senior roles in Tasmanian Government departments. She is Managing Director of 3P Advisory, a consultancy specialising in social impact assessment and corporate social responsibility.

Mathew Healey

Mathew is a senior executive with over two decades' experience in the Tasmanian and Australian governments, and extensive experience in local government policy. He is the Executive Director of the Office of Local Government in the Department of Premier and Cabinet. Mr Healey has led major projects including the Royal Hobart Hospital Redevelopment Rescue Taskforce and the Tasmanian State Service Review.

OUR APPROACH

The Board is committed to building community trust and confidence. The Board will conduct a genuinely open and community-driven process and has no preconceived ideas about the outcomes. The Board will draw on a range of sources of evidence including expert research and analysis, community and stakeholder input, and the insights of the local government sector itself.

The Board will keep the community updated throughout the Review process. A range of information and materials will be released to help your understanding and encourage informed discussion.

Areas Of Inquiry – Key Themes

The Board has identified seven key theme areas for the Review, based on the services that local government currently delivers. These will provide a structure for community engagement and consultation, research, data collection and analysis.

- Community wellbeing
- Economic development and local promotion
- Environment
- Finance and administration
- Governance, accountability, and representation
- Infrastructure provision and management
- Land use planning and other regulatory services

You can find out more about the themes, and how the Board is approaching its work at www.futurelocal.tas.gov.au

Review Themes

COMMUNITY WELLBEING

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & LOCAL PROMOTION

ENVIRONMENT

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

GOVERNANCE, ACCOUNTABILITY & REPRESENTATION

INFRASTRUCTURE PROVISION & MANAGEMENT

LAND USE PLANNING & OTHER REGULATORY SERVICES

TIMELINE

The Local Government Board has a commitment to make recommendations to the Minister for Local Government and Planning by 30 June 2023.

The review will be undertaken in three, six-month stages:

STAGE 1: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, EVIDENCE & FACT-FINDING
JANUARY TO JUNE 2022

STAGE 02: ANALYSING OPTIONS
JULY TO DECEMBER 2022

STAGE 03: RECOMMENDING SOLUTIONS
JANUARY TO JUNE 2023 AND BEYOND

J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J

This stage will focus on community-level consultation with local government, local communities, users of local government services and other stakeholders. Everyone will have the opportunity to describe the roles and services they expect councils to perform to meet current and future needs. Linked to this will be research and consultation to understand how Tasmanians identify with and value the places they live in, and how they value the place-based roles that councils play.

The Board will use the feedback received to identify specific needs and opportunities for reform and develop and evaluate a range of detailed options for further consideration. To do this, the Board may engage relevant experts to model the effects of adopting different reform options, and combinations of reforms, before developing specific recommendations. The community will be consulted about reform options.

After considering community feedback and evidence, the board will evaluate whether the options will deliver sustained improvements to benefit the community. The Board will then refine options and recommendations for Government.

ENGAGING WITH THE COMMUNITY

The Board will provide a range of engagement opportunities to give you a chance to have your say. Whichever way you choose to engage, you can be confident your views will be heard.

- pop-up event
- community workshops
- forums on specific themes
- an online portal

The engagement process aims to seek your feedback and help you understand how your concerns and aspirations will influence the outcome of the review. The engagement will bring diverse perspectives to the table and identify critical issues.

What do we want to achieve?

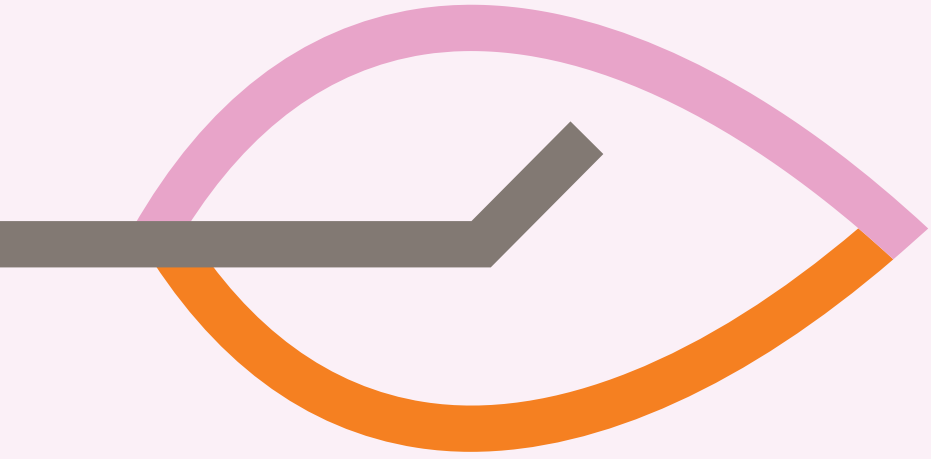
- ensure that people from all sectors and places in Tasmania are involved
- build community understanding of the role and functions of local government
- make sure community interests are being served by the review

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Don't miss your opportunity to participate either online or in person in your local area as we travel the State to hear from you.
All Tasmanians have an opportunity to have their say on how we build a stronger system of local government that delivers for the community. What does the community want, need and expect from local government in Tasmania? What is working and what could we do differently?

The Review will directly impact the vital decisions councils make. Have your say face to face at a session in your local area or join the conversation online.

Further information on how to have your say, as well as updates on the Review are available from www.futurelocal.tas.gov.au



More information?
www.futurelocal.tas.gov.au
LGBoard@dpac.tas.gov.au

The future of local government review

Tasmanian Government