

Future of Local Government Review Newsletter (issue 5)

September 2022

More information?
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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.

This is the fifth in a series of newsletters which will provide periodic updates on the Local Government Board's [Future of Local Government in Tasmania Review](#). These newsletters will also provide updates and information on key engagement opportunities to ensure you understand how to have your say on local government in Tasmania.

THE INTERIM REPORT SUBMISSIONS PERIOD HAS NOW CONCLUDED

On 21 July 2022, we released the Interim Report to the public, inviting submissions on key findings and outcomes from Stage 1 of the Review. The period for responding closed on 29 August 2022. We received a large number of submissions from the public, peak organisations, councils and elected representatives, and are now analysing all submissions to prepare a report summarising the key themes and significant points of difference.

Thank you to everyone who provided feedback, either through our [interactive Report website](#) or email.

STAGE 2 ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

On 2 September 2022 we held a workshop with a range of experts across local government, state government, private sector and community groups to gather perspectives on the priority reform areas and inform the next steps of the Review.

This workshop has helped to identify a spectrum of reform options for each priority reform area, which we will explore through research and further stakeholder and community engagement during Stage 2.

Workshop attendees will meet again later in the year as part of smaller focus groups, to further refine the reform options identified through the workshop process. We want to thank all our participants for their valuable time and input into this process. It was a highly productive session with strong engagement from all attendees.



Professor Richard Eccleston (UTAS) presenting at the Plenary Workshop in Launceston

WEBSITE UPDATES

We are happy to report that a further data dashboard is now available to the public. The [10-year Financial Trend Analysis Dashboard](#) will provide a useful tool to better understand councils' financial trajectories, revenue expenditure and macro trends. The Dashboard provides interesting insights in relation to the changing expenditure patterns of councils over the last decade, and summarises a number of core financial ratios over this period. The Dashboard has been created using data directly from councils, as well as the State Grants Commission and Tasmanian Audit Office.

WHAT'S NEXT

- Local government elections will occur in October and the Board is mindful of respecting Caretaker Conventions and limiting its engagement with the sector during this time.
- In the near future however, we will be releasing a report summarising the submissions received in response to Interim Report 1.
- Broader Stage 2 engagement is also well under way – in addition to further focus group meetings, the Board will soon be undertaking targeted engagement with young people and Tasmanian Aboriginal communities.
- Moving forward, the Board is tasked with consolidating its research, analysis and engagement to develop some feasible reform options which will be presented to the public towards the end of the year. In exploring these options, there will be further opportunities to hear from everyone - keep an eye on our [website](#) and [social media](#) presence, or subscribe to this [newsletter](#) to hear more.



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For more detailed information on the next steps for Stage 2, please see our [Stage 1 Interim Report](#)