



Office of Local Government Update

May 2021

The Local Government Amendment Bill 2021 has passed Parliament



The Local Government Amendment Bill 2021 implements the Government's response to IPART's review of the rating system

- Greater flexibility in rating
- Helps councils deal with population growth
- Allows merged councils more time to harmonise rates

Other measures include

- Measures for JO and county council chairs
- Minor amendments relating to elections
- Councils have the option to make superannuation payments to councillors

A number of important governance initiatives are on the way

The new internal audit framework will be finalised shortly

- Extensive consultation received
- OLG has updated the framework to incorporate feedback
- Further consultation on the updated framework
- To be finalised by September 2021
- Councils need to comply by March 2022

Governance changes to support women in local government

- Proposals for changes to the model Code of Meeting Practice and Expenses and facilities policies are underway

Reviewing tendering regulations and Ministerial Investment Order

- OLG is preparing a consultation paper on the review of the tendering regulations to issue halfway through the year
- The Ministerial Investment Order is also being reviewed

Evaluation of the JO framework

- Consultants will provide an update later today
- Consultation with JOs commenced
- Consultation with other stakeholders yet to commence

OLG is supporting councils to undertake their roles as regulators and employers



Workforce planning

- OLG project officer is supporting councils to access training
- Support for workforce planning
- Promoting veterans employment

Hoarding and squalor

- OLG has engaged Catholic Healthcare to run a series of workshops for council staff on better management of hoarding and squalor

Finance webinars

- OLG has run a series of webinars for council finance staff and more will be coming in the coming months and for incoming councillors

Further tools and guidance
will follow in the coming
months



Integrated planning and reporting

- IP&R guidelines to be released in the coming months

Model policies to support the code of conduct

- Model policies for:
 - Social media
 - Councillor and staff interaction
 - Media management
 - Lobbying of councillors

Credit card management

- OLG will prepare draft guidelines on credit card management in response to AO performance audit

OLG has recommenced its review of the Impounding Act

Consultation paper

- OLG released a consultation paper to seek sector and community feedback
- Feedback suggested the Act is not working well in its current form

Further consultation

- Further consultation on policy options on three key areas will commence shortly:
 - Shopping trolleys
 - Animals and stock
 - Vehicles and trailers