

FACT SHEET

Local Government Amendment (Local Government Board) Bill 2009

The Local Government Amendment (Local Government Board) Bill 2009:

- Implements changes recommended by a steering committee which in 2008 concluded a review of the Board's operations and functions under the auspices of the Premier's Local Government Council (PLGC).

The steering committee included representatives from the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT), the Local Government Managers Australia (LGMA), the Local Government Division and the community. The steering committee conducted two rounds of public consultation as part of the review and made recommendations for changes to the Board's structure and role.

These recommendations included:

1. a more strategic role for the Board
 2. the end of mandatory regular reviews of councils
 3. a more flexible expertise-based membership structure for the Board.
 4. consideration of the Board's role as part of a broader framework promoting continuous improvement in performance, improved reporting and self-review by councils.
- Modifies the existing structure of the Local Government Board to enable it to be more flexible and expertise-based.

The Bill implements the recommendation of the steering committee that the size of the standing board be reduced from five members to four by removing the position for a member with local government experience. Local government experience will be retained in the standing Board through the LGAT- and LGMA-nominated Board members. Additionally the Bill creates two new positions, to be appointed on a review-by-review basis, for specialist members with experience relevant to the particular review being undertaken by the Board at any given time.

- Removes the requirement for regular reviews.

The steering committee considered that, while the Board's general reviews of councils had made an important contribution to the improved performance of local government during the past decade, removal of the requirement of general reviews of councils would allow the Board's reviews to be more targeted and strategic in focus. The Minister for Local Government will retain the option to instigate council reviews as required.