

**The Hon Vickie Chapman MP**



**Government  
of South Australia**

**Deputy Premier**

**Attorney-General**

**Minister for Planning  
and Local Government**

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Deputy Mayor Lucas Jones  
City of Tea Tree Gully

By email: [lucas.jones@cttg.sa.gov.au](mailto:lucas.jones@cttg.sa.gov.au)

Dear Deputy Mayor Jones

I am writing to update you on the progress of the Statutes Amendment (Local Government Review) Bill 2020 (the Bill) through Parliament. On 11 May 2021 in the Legislative Council the Labor Party successfully moved a number of amendments to the Bill.

While the Marshall Government will accept the majority of amendments made in the Legislative Council, the two Labor amendments that relate to the membership of the Behavioural Standards Panel (the Panel) the Government will not support. The Local Government Association (LGA) share the Government's concerns and do not support these particular amendments.

The Panel has been carefully designed to ensure it can deal with serious behavioural matters effectively and efficiently. Our objective has always been that matters relating to repeated or serious misbehaviour by an elected member, or where an elected member has failed to comply with a council's processes or resolved actions, can be referred to the Panel and resolved quickly for the benefit of all involved.

The Bill established the membership of the Panel to include three members – one a nominee of the Minister for Local Government, one a nominee of the LGA, and the presiding member to be a joint nominee of the Minister and LGA. The original composition of the Panel was designed to ensure no person is 'represented' on the Panel – members or employees.

Labor's amendment increases the membership of the Behavioural Standards Panel to four to include a representative of a registered industrial association. Both the Government and LGA firmly believe it is essential the Panel act as an independent body whose inquiries and findings about elected member behaviour are, and are seen to be, impartial.

In an attempt to find a compromise and in recognition that matters involving employees may occasionally come before the Panel, the Government and LGA have prepared a further amendment to the Bill to require the Panel to consult with a registered industrial association throughout an inquiry process where the affected person is an employee and has requested representation.

Anything else will compromise the Panel's capacity to address issues that currently cause distress, damage the reputation of councils, cost ratepayers significant money, and fail to properly protect both elected members and council staff from unacceptable behaviour.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Vickie Chapman'.

**VICKIE CHAPMAN MP**  
DEPUTY PREMIER  
MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT