



Local government reform update

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1st July 2021

The Statutes Amendment (Local Government Review) Act 2021 was assented to by the Governor on 17 June 2021. The LGA is now working closely with the Office of Local Government on a commencement timeline.

The [Statutes Amendment \(Local Government Review\) Act 2021](#) (Amendment Act) is now an Act of Parliament, however, it has not yet come into operation and will require commencement dates to be fixed by proclamation.

Recently, the Minister for Local Government wrote to all Mayors to start communicating proposed timelines around commencement of the Amendment Act. The Minister is proposing to have two proclamation rounds that will commence the reforms in stages to enable time for councils and other relevant bodies to prepare for the changes.

The Minister has indicated that reforms that require minimal to moderate implementation tasks or supporting regulations will likely commence in early August 2021, these include:

- changes to informal gatherings and internal reviews of council decisions;
- clarification of the roles of principal member and members of council; and
- the requirement for independent advice on CEO appointment, performance review and termination.

Importantly, the Minister's letter anticipates that reforms to the *Local Government (Elections) Act 1999* will be proclaimed in August 2021 with a proposed commencement date in mid-November 2021. This will ensure the

changes are in place well in advance of the next council elections, and that councils are not required to hold supplementary elections in the 12 months prior to this date. The Minister will commence a consultation process - to be coordinated through the LGA - on regulations to implement the first stage of reforms shortly, and the LGA will keep the sector updated on developments.

Discussions between the LGA and Office of Local Government have also indicated that:

- Rate monitoring provisions and the new Community Engagement Charter are expected to commence in the 2022 calendar year.
- The new behaviour management framework will be in place by the start of the next council term.
- Financial management reforms will be in place by the 2023-24 year.
- Changes in the basis of rating will commence in time for the 2024-25 year.

The LGA is currently refining its reform implementation plans, and further information will be provided to the sector shortly. For any immediate queries, please contact [Andrew Lamb, Local Government Reform Partner](#).



for more information...

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