

2016-17 Budget Estimates Hearing Local Government portfolio

Wednesday 18 May 2016



19/05/2016

Local Government Reform Agenda

The Government is implementing reform focusing on three strategic areas for action:

- 1. Improving Integrity and Good Governance**
- 2. Improving Capacity and Performance**
- 3. Delivering for Communities**

Local Government Reform Agenda

Ministerial Statement on Local Government

Integrity and Good Governance

A MODERN STATE-LOCAL GOVERNMENT RELATIONSHIP

A modern Local Government Act

GOOD GOVERNANCE AND STRONG DEMOCRACY

Immediate improvements to councillor governance

Greater integrity for 2016 Council Elections

Capacity and Performance

HIGH PERFORMING COUNCILS

A new Performance and Reporting Framework

Innovative sustainable business initiatives

Keeping Victorians safe in emergencies

REDUCED ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN

A Common Funding Agreement

Reduced administrative burden

Local Government Impacts in Cabinet Submissions

Delivering for Communities

VALUE & EQUITY IN SERVICE OUTCOMES

Fair Go Rates system

Interface Growth Fund

A Better Deal for Rural Councils

Improving Our Libraries

INTEGRATED INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

Integrated service planning

Co-ordinated infrastructure investment

BETTER EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES

Support for disadvantaged jobseekers

Stronger Social Procurement

Better Aboriginal Employment Outcomes

INCREASED DIVERSITY

An Aboriginal Partnership Plan

Better support for:

Women

Young People

People with Disabilities

Cultural Diversity

Challenges

Integrity and Good Governance

- An outdated Local Government Act
- Councillor conduct and governance issues
- Diversity in councillors and senior staff
- Electoral reform and preparation for 2016 Council general elections
- A need for more meaningful and transparent decision making

Building Capacity and Performance

- Cost of living pressures arising from local council rates
- Council's capacity and capability to respond to emergency events
- Cuts to Commonwealth financial assistance grants
- Financial sustainability of small rural councils

Delivering for Communities

- Responding to needs of growing communities

Addressing the challenges

Integrity and Good Governance

- Reform of the *Local Government Act 1989*
- *Local Government Amendment (Improved Governance Act) 2015*
- Commission of Inquiry into Greater Geelong City Council

Building Capacity and Performance

- Know your Council website
- Mandatory reporting framework for Local Government
- Victorian State-Local Government Agreement
- Strengthening roles in emergency management
- Sustainable Business Capacity Program
- Regional Partnerships

Delivering for Communities

- Fair Go Rates System
- Growing Suburbs Fund

2016-17 Budget initiatives



Growing Suburbs Fund (formerly Interface Growth Fund)

- Further \$50 million investment in local infrastructure for interface councils to add to the initial \$50 million provided in 2015-16
- Targeted investment to deliver a diverse range of infrastructure that communities need to be active, resilient and liveable:
 - Family and community centres
 - Town centre and civic revitalisation projects
 - Open space and amenity improvements
- Unlocks dollar for dollar additional investment and contributes to local job creation



2016-17 Budget initiatives

\$22.4 million over four years to support Victoria's public libraries

Living Libraries Infrastructure Program

- \$18.0 million over four years to build new libraries, refurbish and modernise existing libraries and replace and refurbish mobile libraries

Premiers' Reading Challenge Book Fund

- \$4.4 million over four years to enable public libraries to purchase new books and reading materials to facilitate participation in the annual Premiers' Reading Challenge

2016-17 Budget initiatives

Local Government Support Team

- Provide targeted support to councils in need, predominantly in rural areas
- \$3.2 million to establish a panel of qualified and experienced financial and accounting professionals
- Provide practical and timely financial management assistance
- Respond to skill gap and build capacity

Local Government Act review - update

2015

Identification of issues

- Discussion Paper released, background papers commissioned, technical working groups established

2016

Reform directions

- Release of a Directions Paper outlining key reforms, with further opportunity for submissions

2017

Legislation

- Release of an Exposure Draft Bill with opportunity for further input