Local Government Expert Advisory Panel

Meeting Communique 30 July 2026

The Local Government Expert Advisory Panel (EAP) met on 30 July 2026. Panel members joined the meeting online to discuss the presented papers on Statutory Fees and Charges, Long-term Financial Planning and Integrated Planning and Reporting.

Further consultation across the local government sector, including councils, joint organisations and peak bodies, will be conducted as the financial sustainability reform work progresses.

Statutory Fees and Charges

The EAP were provided a draft Guideline for Implementing Fees for a Service and an overview of some of the statutory fees and charges requiring review. A discussion was held among the panel members on the impacts of updating fees, the method of updating and the application of the guidelines amongst other State Government agencies. The Office of Local Government (OLG) has committed to work through the comments and recommendations from the panel and provide a more detailed analysis of what updating the Stormwater Management Service Charge would look like. These will be brought back for further discussion at the October meeting.

Long-term Financial Planning and Integrated Planning and Reporting

OLG presented the panel with a series of questions from the Hon. Minister Hoenig relating to long-term financial planning (LTFP) and integrated planning and reporting (IP&R). A discussion was held on the importance of the LTFP and IP&R and its integration with operational and delivery plans. Concerns were raised around the under-utilisation of the current processes and suggested it would be good to review the processes. The discussion resulted in OLG committing to seek additional feedback from a broader selection of councils prior to a response going to the Minister. The draft response will return to EAP at the September meeting for final panel review prior to being submitted to the Minister.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the EAP is scheduled to be held 25 August 2026.