LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACTS TASKFORCE
STAGE TWO – DISCUSSION PAPER AIMS TO CUT RED TAPE

The reforms to the Local Government Act and the City of Sydney Act have entered the second stage with the release of a discussion paper on possible changes to the Acts said Local Government Acts Taskforce Chairman John Turner.

“The Taskforce undertook extensive consultation and engagement with the local government community over a number of months and with the information gained, submissions received and its own research and deliberations, has produced the discussion paper," Mr Turner said.

The paper explores four areas of reform. These are:

(1) Guiding principles for local government in NSW.
(2) A strategic framework for local government in NSW.
(3) Council operations.
(4) Tribunals and Commissions.

“The Taskforce believes that the integrated planning and reporting process should form the central theme for the new Local Government Act, as the primary strategic tool which supports councils delivering to their communities,” said Mr Turner.

Integrated planning and reporting was introduced into the Local Government Act in 2009 as a strategic tool to help councils to implement their leadership, advocacy and service roles in local communities.

“There are many areas where the integrated planning and reporting provisions can be utilised to remove much of the prescription in the current Act and reduce red tape.

“The Taskforce proposes that integrated planning and reporting be elevated to form a central plank of the new Act as the primary strategic tool which enables councils to fulfil their leadership role and deliver infrastructure services and regulation based on community priorities which have been identified by working in partnership with the community, other councils and the State.”

The discussion paper also seeks information and feedback from the public on a number of other specific areas which were raised during stage one of the Taskforce’s work. These include:

- Updating and renaming the charter contained in the current Act
- Public land management
- Capital expenditure framework
- Appointment and management of staff
- Use of technology
- Approvals, orders and enforcement.

The discussion paper will be available from the Taskforce webpage via www.dlg.nsw.gov.au and will contain a series of questions on the issues and proposals of the Taskforce.

Details of how to make a submission are included in the discussion paper. Submissions will close on Friday 28 June 2013.

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