

<b>Circular Details</b>	Circular No 14-23 / 10 September 2014 / A386940
<b>Previous Circulars</b>	14-01 and 14-04
<b>Who should read this</b>	Councillors and General Managers
<b>Contact</b>	Office of Local Government - 02 4428 4100 / <a href="mailto:olg@olg.nsw.gov.au">olg@olg.nsw.gov.au</a>
<b>Action required</b>	Response to OLG by 30 June 2015

## Government response to the Independent Local Government Review Panel and Local Government Acts Taskforce

### What's new or changing

- The NSW Government today announced up to \$1 billion in funding for local government in NSW, to strengthen communities and support councils to become Fit for the Future.

### What this will mean for your council

- Councils in NSW, other than those in the Far West, are asked to submit a proposal by 30 June 2015 outlining plans to become Fit for the Future.
- Fit for the Future councils will have access to significant funding and support to make the structural changes necessary and benefits including:
  - access to a State borrowing facility;
  - access to a streamlined IPART process for setting rates;
  - priority access to State funding and other grants;
  - more flexibility with procurement;
  - simplified reporting; and
  - eligibility for additional planning powers.
- The Government has also announced changes to the system of local government including:
  - a new Local Government Act to be phased in from 2016/17 that will focus on Integrated Planning and Reporting;
  - a new role for the NSW Auditor-General;
  - a review of the rating system;
  - greater clarity on the roles and responsibilities of mayors and general managers; and
  - a review of the regulatory burden on councils.

### Key points

- The Fit for the Future package is the culmination of three years of extensive consultation and research and responds to the recommendations of the Independent Local Government Review Panel and the Local Government Acts Taskforce.
- Councils will shortly be invited to hear more about the Fit for the Future package at a series of workshops to be held throughout NSW in September.
- Councils will also be provided with further information about how to complete a Fit for the Future proposal in the coming weeks.

**Where to go for further information**

- Information about the Fit for the Future package, the Government's detailed response to each of the Panel and Taskforce recommendations, and Frequently Asked Questions are available at [www.fitforthefuture.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fitforthefuture.nsw.gov.au)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Steve Orr', written in a cursive style.

**Steve Orr**  
**Acting Chief Executive**  
**Office of Local Government**