

## Fit for the Future - Development of a new Local Government Act - Phase 1 Consultation

Thank you for your interest in the development of new local government legislation.

### **The public consultation period has closed and subm**

#### **Phase 1**

The introduction of more streamlined legislation will happen in phases. Phase 1 will concentrate on reforms that strengthen our local government system, supporting councils to connect with their communities and build their capability. In particular, the Phase 1 Bill will:

- clarify roles and responsibilities of councillors, mayors, administrators and general managers;
- introduce new guiding principles for local government;
- improve governance of councils and professional development for councillors;
- expand on the framework for strategic business planning and reporting;
- prioritise community engagement and financial accountability; and
- streamline council administrative processes

The NSW Parliament has passed the Local Government Amendment (Governance and Planning) Act 2016 which amends the Local Government Act 1993, and focuses mainly on improving council governance and strategic business planning. Some of the amendments are now in force as set out in Circular No 16-30 (2 September 2016), Circular No 16-32 (9 September 2016), and Circular No 16-35 (26 September 2016). Other amendments will be put in place over time and will be advised through further circulars

#### **Later phases**

The later phases in the legislative reform process will address recommendations arising from reviews being undertaken by the IPART about the regulatory burden imposed on councils and the revenue-raising powers of councils. In each phase, opportunities will be identified to streamline the shape and structure of the legislation to ensure that our whole system of local government is fit for the future.

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