

FOLEY'S | LIST

REVIEW OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT

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REVIEW OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1989



The project overview states that this is the first comprehensive review of the Act in 25 years. “This review responds to calls from the local government sector for legislative reform after over 90 amending acts have resulted in hundreds of individual amendments to the Act in the past 25 years. As part of the review, consideration will be given to all other legislation for which the Minister for Local Government has responsibility including the City of Greater Geelong Act 1993 and the City of Melbourne Act 2001 with a view to simplifying, making consistent, and where appropriate integrating that legislation in the new Act.”

The discussion paper, which can be found at www.yourcouncilyourcommunity.vic.gov.au, seeks to identify issues – overall structure, ambiguous and redundant provisions and gaps – in the current Act that need to be addressed in a new Act for Victoria. The aim of the review is to produce contemporary legislation that modernises the relationship between the state and local government to better reflect essential roles and responsibilities. Submissions have been made and the submission period closed in December 2015. Those submissions will inform the development of the local Government Act Review Directions Paper which will be released in 2016. There will be further

opportunities to make a submission on the directions paper and get involved in public forums on the review throughout 2016.

This will be an interesting and important process not only professionally, but as residents and ratepayers of Councils. As noted in the document, Local Government is the tier of government closest to people, and hence the decisions taken by councils have an immediate impact on people's lives.

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