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MODERNISATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION

Purpose

To announce the commencement of the Local Government Acts (LGA) Taskforce.

Issue

- The Hon Don Page MP has appointed the LGA Taskforce to review the *Local Government Act 1993 and the City of Sydney Act 1988*. This appointment follows the release of the Destination 2036 Action Plan earlier this year.
- The Taskforce members are:
 - Mr John Turner (Chair)
 - Mrs Gabrielle Kibble AO
 - Cllr Dr Ian Tiley
 - Mr Stephen Blackadder
- The Taskforce will commence work in September this year, and will report back to the Minister by September 2013.
- The Terms of Reference of the LGA Taskforce are attached to this Circular.
- The Taskforce will work closely with the Independent Local Government Review Panel to ensure that the new legislation supports and facilitates the outcomes of this work.
- A webpage will be established on the Division's website which will enable interested persons to keep track of the progress of the review, provide ready access to LGA Taskforce publications as they become available, and facilitate the consultation process.
- The work of the LGA Taskforce is an important initiative that will assist in ensuring that NSW has the right legislative framework for strong and sustainable local government into the future.

Action

General Managers are asked to bring this Circular to the attention of councillors, council staff and their local community.



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Terms of Reference for the *Local Government Act 1993 and the City of Sydney Act 1988* Taskforce

The Local Government Acts Taskforce will consider the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993* and the *City of Sydney Act 1988*, and their practical operation so as to:

- Ensure that the legislation and statutory framework meet the current and future needs of the community, local government, and the local government sector.
- Strengthen and streamline the legislation to enable local government to deliver services and infrastructure efficiently, effectively and in a timely manner.
- Ensure that the legislation is progressive, easily understood and provides a comprehensive framework, while avoiding unnecessary red tape.
- Recognise the diversity of local government in NSW.
- Provide greater clarity on the role and responsibility of local government.
- Adopt the decisions of the Government in relation to the recommendations of the Independent Local Government Review Panel.
- Make recommendations to the Minister for Local Government for legislative changes considered necessary and appropriate for a new Local Government Act.
- Identify and recommend to the Minister for Local Government, at any time during the review process, any legislative changes that need to be implemented prior to the completion of the review.

The Taskforce comprises four (4) members and will provide to the Minister for Local Government its final report by September 2013.

Other considerations:

In carrying out its work the Taskforce will:

- Engage and consult with the wider NSW community and with local government stakeholders (including the Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW, Local Government Managers Australia (NSW), local councils, village committees, county councils, regional organisations of councils, business, community, industrial and employee associations, relevant professional bodies, and government agencies) about the operation of the legislation.
- Identify key principles to underpin local government legislation in NSW. In developing these principles the Taskforce will consider legislation and its application in other jurisdictions both in Australia and overseas.
- Take account of the work, findings and government decisions, in relation to the NSW Planning System Review, the Destination 2036 Action Plan and the NSW State Plan “NSW 2021 – A Plan to make NSW number one”.
- Conduct its work in a manner that recognises the terms of reference and approach being taken by the Independent Local Government Review Panel.