

Submission
No 201

INQUIRY INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Organisation: Local Government Managers Australia National

Date received: 7/08/2015

6 August 2015

The Director
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 6
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Ms Foley

On behalf of Local Government Managers Australia – National (LGMA National), I am writing to express support for our NSW partnership organisation, Local Government Professionals Australia, NSW and their submission to the current Committee Inquiry into local government and the Fit for the Future Reform process.

LGMA National is a not-for-profit peak body established in 1936 representing the national interests of its members and local government professionals around Australia. LGMA National has been working to promote the interests of our members in the areas of professional development, advocacy and training.

LGMA is a federation with offices in NSW, QLD, SA, TAS, VIC and WA, and a national office based in Melbourne. Collectively, we are committed to the development and improvement of local government of the local government sector. We encourage high professional and ethical standards in the sector and ensure that members are at the forefront of change and innovation.

We echo Local Government Professionals Australia, NSW position that reform of the sector should be based on the holistic nature of the ILGRP (Independent Local Government Review Panel recommendations Panel) and not just related to structural reform in recognition of Local government's place-based and multi-functional role within communities.

LGMA National's position on policy reform, either at a State or Federal level, is that it should be the start of an ongoing dialogue regarding local government's value proposition. Local government is the tier which is at the coal face of communities and therefore uniquely positioned to understand its needs.

Our member research indicates the sector recognises the need to embrace change to better enable councils to serve their communities in a challenging and rapidly changing environment. LGMA National regularly receives requests from members seeking support and tools on managing change in their capacity as local government professionals. We therefore echo the comments made by Local Government Professionals Australia, NSW that change must be adequately supported and funded via assistance / and or change management programs and support. This is also necessary to ensure local government's ability to support the current and future needs of local communities during any reform process.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned during office hours.

Yours sincerely

Shayne Silcox – President
Local Government Managers Australia (National Office)