A NEW LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT FOR NSW – Progress?

A Presentation to the Local Government NSW HR Network
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A Short History

• 1919 Local Government Act
• The “new” 1993 Act
• Supported by Regulations, Guidelines and Standards
• 2011 Reform Agenda supported by local government – Dubbo 2036 Forum
• Independent Review Panel
• LG Acts Taskforce
• Fit for the Future........ Mergers........
• Next ???????
The Panel and Taskforce

- **Independent Review Panel** – Graham Sansom, Chair and members Jude Munro and Glen Inglis
- **Acts Taskforce** – John Turner, Chair and Ian Tiley, Gabrielle Kibble and Stephen Blackadder

**Outcomes:**
6 years later – where are we now?

Phase 1 - *Local Government Amendment (Governance and Planning) Act 2016*, which passed Parliament in August 2016 – a focus on improvements to the governance, strategic planning and performance frameworks under which councils operate, and included:

- Increasing the mayoral term for a councillor-elected mayor to two years
- Requiring all councillors to take an oath or affirmation of office
6 Years Later.....

• New purposes and principles for local government
• New roles and responsibilities for mayors, councillors and councils
• New functions for general managers
• Clarification of the role of administrators
• Appointing the Auditor-General as the auditor of all councils with the ability to conduct sector-wide performance audits
• Improved and streamlined integrated planning and reporting
6 years later...

- A new power to appoint a financial controller to a council in conjunction with a performance improvement order
  (NOTE: PIOs issued to Blue Mountains, North Sydney and Balranald.)
LG Act Changes - Happening at last....

Remaining Phase 1 reforms – being introduced:

• Audit, Risk and Improvement Committees – how many of your Councils have acted already?
• Councillor Induction and Professional Development – Guidelines issued August 2018
• New Model Code of Meeting Practice – prescribed on 14 December 2018
• New Model Code of Conduct – prescribed on 14 December 2018
• Joint Organisations – commenced – 85 councils in regional NSW are now members of the 13 joint organisations
LG Act Changes – Happening…

Phase 2 reforms?

• Rating changes – the IPART report was with the Minister on December 2016 – and released June 2019…. Consultation closes 13 September – get in quick…

• Performance Measurement Framework – still coming – requiring staff climate surveys and community surveys?


• Others?
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