



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities

File Reference: TERR18/0155-02

Mr Duncan Ord
Director General
Department of Local Government, Sport
and Cultural Industries
GPO Box 8349
PERTH BUSINESS CENTRE WA 6849

Dear Mr Ord

Review of Local Government Act 1995

The Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities welcomes the opportunity to make a submission into the review of the *Local Government Act 1955* (the Act).

As you may be aware, the Commonwealth, through the Department has exclusive legislative responsibility for the Territory of Christmas Island and the Territory of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands. It is in this capacity as the regulator for the Territories Local Governments that I write to you.

To provide a comprehensive set of state-type services to the Territories, the Commonwealth has introduced legislation that has the effect of applying the laws of Western Australia as Commonwealth laws in the Territories, known as applied laws.

I would like to highlight that any legislative changes introduced as a result of the review of the Act considers the constraints on regional and remote local government authorities, particularly those with low revenue bases.

In addition, any legislative changes aimed at introducing transparency into the operations of local governments, particularly governance and procurement would be supported by the Department.

Our submission to the review is attached.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PP M M', written over a large, stylized scribble.

Claire Howlett
General Manager
Indian Ocean Territories
29 March 2019