

**From:** Ian Merker [REDACTED]  
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## **From Dr Ian Merker - Local Government Act Reform Submission**

**I hereby submit the following items as my recommendations for reforming Local Government:**

### **Elections:**

Local Government elections **postal votes should be changed** to the same process as state and federal elections. Voters should be able to vote in person at the council office or at a council library three weeks up to election day. Stealing if voting papers from mail boxed is widespread.

Local Government elections **should be compulsory** as it is for Federal Elections

Local Government elections **should not have preferential voting** - it should be the candidate who has the most votes on the day.

Voters must have **photo identification** in order to cast their vote

### **Councillor candidates:**

Anyone who could directly or indirectly benefit from being a Councillor **should not be allowed** to stand for election e.g., anyone associated with building, planning, Real Estate Agents or property developers.

### **Council meetings and Council Staff:**

Public Question time **should not be** time limited

Credit cards statements for all Local Government employees should be tabled at council meeting and made available for inspection by everyone in the community.

The Local Government Act amended to cover Covid emergencies (Part 10) **should now be** revoked. Extended powers given to CEO's is no longer required

**Development Assessment Panel:**

Issues that appear before DAP include objections from members of the public. Currently the general public have no right to attend a DAP hearing. Developers are therefore favoured. **This must be addressed.** I understand many other States allow public presentations at similar hearings.

*Dr Ian Merker*

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*25 February 2022*