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**From:** Elizabeth Black [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 20 January 2022 5:26 PM  
**To:** DLGSC Act Review  
**Subject:** Comments on Local Government Reform

Dear Department of Local Government, Sports and cultural industries,

After reading the proposed local gov reform I think these are generally good and moving in the right direction.

On the Stronger local democracy and community engagement I'm particularly impressed by the addition of preferential voting and direct election of president/mayor of the LGA.

I think the biggest issue for local government democracy is however not addressed by these proposals, in many regional areas voter turnout is well below 20% resulting in monied interests easily being able to dominate local elections, as well as older generations who have higher turn out to being able to legislate against the interests of the youth ie restrictive zoning laws preventing affordable housing. Please require mandatory voting for local government elections.

In regards to Reducing red tape, increasing consistency and simplicity, please ban/restrict parking minimums which put undue costs onto businesses, reduces neighbourhood walkability and forces those who don't drive to subsidise those that do.

Also please consider reducing the ability of local governments to set restrictive zoning laws that prevent the building of even moderate density housing, which results in unaffordable housing, massive urban sprawl, destruction of native veg, and reduces walkability/ cyclability of neighbourhoods/towns.

Regards,  
Elizabeth Black