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Office of the President

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14 July 2014

Hon Ian Hunter MLC
Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation;
Minister for Water and the River Murray;
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation
GPO Box 1047
ADELAIDE SA 5001
DX 138 ADELAIDE

Dear Minister Hunter *Ian,*

Board and Committee Reform

On behalf of Local Government the Local Government Association (LGA) welcomes the State Government's announcement to reform boards and committees.

We believe that any unnecessary duplication and red tape should be reduced so that doing business in South Australia can be easier and more efficient.

While the LGA welcomes the State Government's announcement, we do so with caution. There are a number of boards and committees that include representatives from Local Government or otherwise deal with matters directly related to Local Government.

It would be our expectation that under our State/Local Government Relations Agreement you would be instructing Ministers and Chief Executives of Government Departments and Agencies to consult with the LGA prior to making any decisions.

As well as providing opportunities for representation, boards and committees are often linked to legislation which administers funding directly related to Local Government, and in some circumstances funding that has been contributed by Local Government. This further highlights the need for these matters to be carefully considered and we strongly oppose any legislative changes that seek to redirect these funds without Local Government agreement.

We would welcome discussion with you regarding community representation and are particularly interested in your views about more direct access to government.

Local Government can play a pivotal role in helping the State Government better engage with residents and communities as an alternative to some of the current boards and committees and may in fact play a very important role in administering and carrying out some of the duties of the current boards and committees.

To this end we look forward to discussing this matter with you as a matter of urgency and certainly before any legislation is presented before the Parliament.

Kind regards

Mayor David O'Loughlin
President

Telephone: 8224 2022
Email: lqapresident@lga.sa.gov.au

