

“Have Your Say”

Draft Local Government Amendment (Code of Conduct) Bill 2022 and related matters

The Tasmanian Government is committed to providing open and transparent public consultation processes. We are seeking your input on the draft Local Government Amendment (Code of Conduct) Bill 2022 (the draft Bill) and related matters.

Following prior public consultation about potential targeted legislative changes to the Local Government Code of Conduct Framework between July and August 2021, the Tasmanian Government committed to reform across six key areas in December 2021. The draft Bill progresses some of these reforms by amending the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act).

The main changes proposed in the draft Bill are a standard code of conduct for councils, voluntary adoption of a behaviour standard policy for councillors, mandatory local dispute resolution policy in councils, an improved process for the initial assessment of complaints, and the disclosure and management of interests by Panel members.

Councils will be required to adopt a dispute resolution policy within 12 months after the commencement of the amendments. The draft Bill provides that a dispute resolution policy is to contain the prescribed information and include the processes to be followed in respect of prescribed matters.

In anticipation of the commencement of the amendments, the Government has prepared a draft of the prescribed information to be included in every council's dispute resolution policy (the draft prescribed information) and is seeking public feedback on both the draft Bill and the draft prescribed information.

The feedback on both documents will inform concurrent amendments to the Act and the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2015*.

HOW TO MAKE A SUBMISSION

All written submissions on the draft Bill and the draft prescribed information must be received by **Monday, 5 September 2022**.

You can make your submission either by email or by post:

Email: lgconsultation@dpac.tas.gov.au with the subject heading as 'Local Government Amendment (Code of Conduct) Bill 2022 feedback'

Mail: Attention: Local Government Amendment (Code of Conduct) Bill 2022 feedback
Office of Local Government
Department of Premier and Cabinet
GPO Box 123
HOBART TAS 7001

PUBLISHING SUBMISSIONS

Other than as indicated below, submissions will be treated as public information and will be published on the website at https://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/divisions/local_government/local_government_code_of_conduct/code_of_conduct_framework_review.

Submissions will be published once the Government's consideration of submissions has concluded.

No personal information other than an individual's name or the organisation making a submission will be published.

For further information, please read the [Tasmanian Government Public Submissions Policy](#) or contact the Office of Local Government on (03) 6232 7022 or lgconsultation@dpac.tas.gov.au.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO NOTE

Your name (or the name of the organisation) **will** be published unless you request otherwise.

In the absence of a clear indication that a submission is intended to be treated as confidential (or parts of the submission), the Department will treat the submission as public.

If you would like your submission treated as confidential, whether in whole or in part, please indicate this in writing at the time of making your submission clearly identifying the parts of your submission you want to remain confidential and the reasons why. In this case, your submission will not be published to the extent of that request.

Copyright in submissions remains with the author(s), not with the Tasmanian Government.

The Department will not publish, in whole or in part, submissions containing defamatory or offensive material. If your submission includes information that could enable the identification of other individuals then either all or parts of the submission will not be published.

ACCESSIBILITY OF SUBMISSIONS

The Government recognises that not all individuals or groups are equally placed to access and understand information. We are therefore committed to ensuring Government information is accessible and easily understood by people with diverse communication needs

Where possible, please consider typing your submission in plain English and providing it in a format such as Microsoft Word or equivalent.

The Government cannot however take responsibility for the accessibility of documents provided by third parties.

The Right to Information Act 2009 and confidentiality

Information provided to the Government may be provided to an applicant under the provisions of the *Right to Information Act 2009* (RTI). If you have indicated that you wish all or part of your submission to be treated as confidential, your statement detailing the reasons may be taken into account in determining whether or not to release the information in the event of an RTI application for assessed disclosure. You may also be contacted to provide any further comment.

SUBMISSION FORM

YOUR DETAILS

For individuals:

Full Name:	Corey James Speers
Address:	[REDACTED]
Email:	[REDACTED]
Phone:	[REDACTED]
Date of submission:	3 August 2022
Is this submission confidential?	Yes or No

For organisations:

Organisation Name:	
Organisation Type: <i>ie not-for-profit, council, Government agencies etc.</i>	
Contact Person:	
Address:	
Email:	
Phone:	
Date of submission:	
Is this submission confidential?	Yes or No

Please ensure this form is submitted by Monday, 5 September 2022

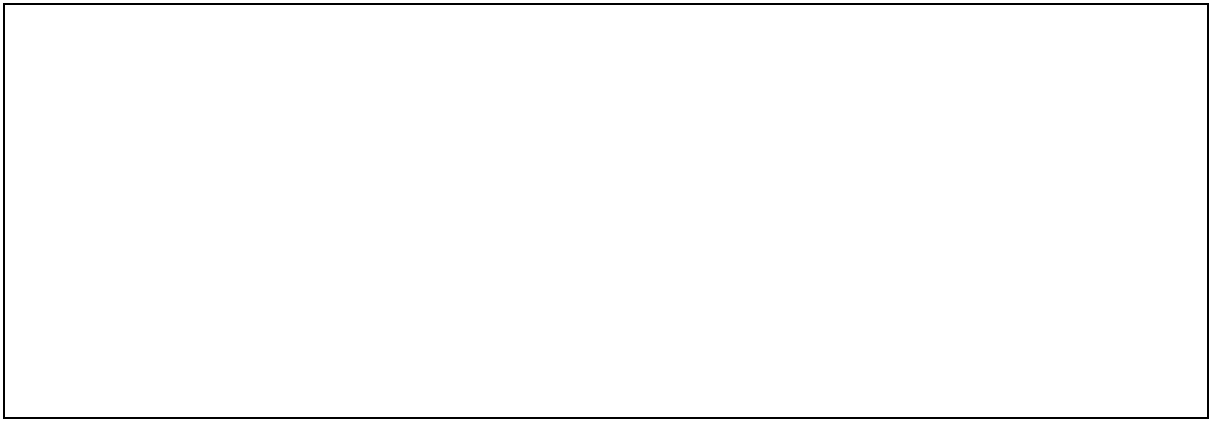
YOUR SUBMISSION

a) Draft Local Government Amendment (Code of Conduct) Bill 2022

Please respond in the box provided below.

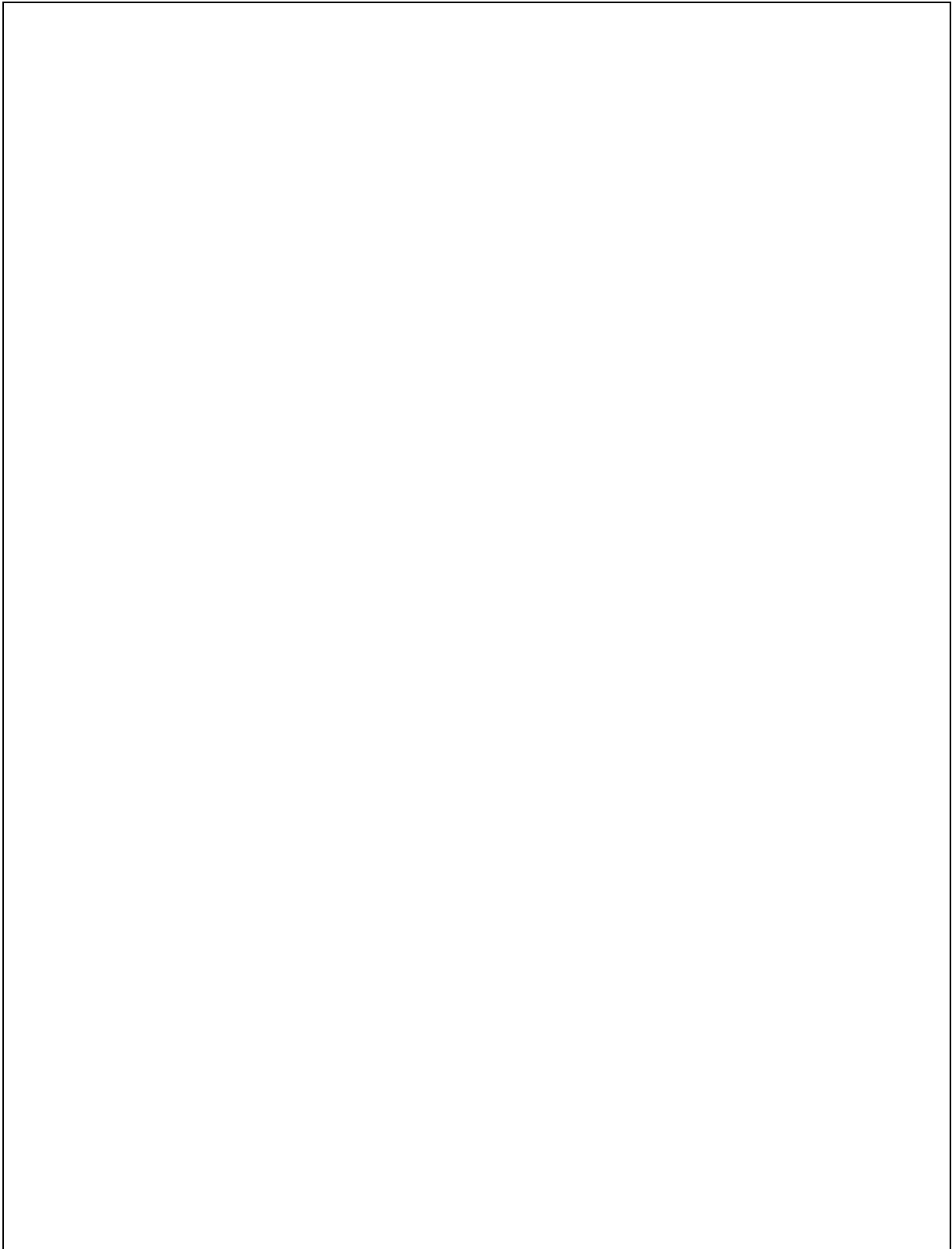
The Code Of Conduct review is welcome and I have no issue with the proposed amendments, however, believe the sanctions and other matters relating to breaches of the Code needed to be strengthened in order to align with community standards.

The first suggestion being to make it mandatory for all Councillors to have Working With Vulnerable People registration prior to election. This is a basic requirement for most committees and boards and our Councils and Councillors should be held to the same standard. Aligning to this I would like to see a requirement that if an elected member thereby is disqualified from having a Working With Vulnerable People registration, such as being placed on the sex offenders register, then they are no longer eligible to sit on Council and should resign and/or be removed by the Minister. This is the same again for most committees and boards, so again to meet the bear minimum of community standards this should be added to the Code of Conduct.



b) Draft prescribed information

Please respond in the box provided below.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the user to provide their response to the draft prescribed information.