

# Statutes Amendment (Local Government Review) Act 2021

The following reforms commenced on **20 September 2021**

- The amendment to the *Equal Opportunity Act 1984* to include other council members as persons that council members must not sexually harass.
- Amendments to the objects of the *Local Government Act 1999*, the functions of councils, and the principles to be observed by councils, as a result of a recommendation of the South Australian Productivity Commission's *Final Report: Inquiry into Local Government Costs and Efficiencies* (SA Productivity Commission Report) to make clearer the range of options available to councils in their legislated functions.
- 'Simpler regulation' reforms, to modernise and improve regulatory requirements that apply to councils in the LG Act, including repealing the detailed requirements for councils to issue permits to mobile food vendors, changes to informal gatherings and some technical amendments.
- The amendment that provides that council members who are running for State Parliament will be taken to have been granted a leave of absence from office of member of the council for the duration of the election campaign.
- Clarification of the roles of the principal member (as a leader of the council) and members of council. This includes mirroring provisions in the *City of Adelaide Act 1998*.
- The ability for the Minister to require information from councils, that may be necessary to establish a 'local government information framework' (website), as included within the Government's response to the SA Productivity Commission Report.
- The ability of the Remuneration Tribunal of South Australia to determine the minimum and maximum remuneration for council chief executive officers (CEOs).
- The ability for the Governor to make transitional provisions in regulations that may be required for any of the reforms.
- The amendments to the *Local Government (Elections) Act 1999* (the LGE Act) in relation to method of counting and provisional declarations for single vacancy elections, in order for this simpler method to be available to ECSA for any supplementary election that may held where the close of voting occurs after 20 September 2021.

- The amendments to the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987* to expand the powers of the Auditor-General's powers to include the review of councils or their operations, and to include the ability of the Auditor-General to audit specific councils.
- The amendments to the *Crown Land Management Act 2009* to clarify that councils do not need to undertake a community land revocation proposal where the council's care, control and management of the land has been withdrawn under the *Crown Land Management Act 2009*.
- The amendments to the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* to streamline the disclosure of financial interests of members of the assessment panel while the member holds office as a member of council (on the basis they disclose interests under the LG Act).