

# GOVERNANCE FORUM

Governance Advisory Service  
27 October 2022



1



We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the Land on which we live, work, learn and play.

We pay respect to their Elders both past, present and emerging and extend that respect to other First Nations people present.

2

1

## Introduction

Liza Perrett

Governance Advisor



3

## Governance Advisory Service

- ❑ 2 year funded position
  - Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (DSDILGP)
  - Commenced 19 September – 6<sup>th</sup> week
- ❑ Key aim is to support Queensland local governments in:
  - developing a library of key policy, reporting and monitoring systems;
  - support the implementation of good governance (best) practices in councils of varying sizes; and
  - work with individual councils to tailor documents, train staff and assist in the implementation and consistent adoption across councils



4

2

# Service Overview

Develop a Governance document priority matrix

Develop templates for key:

- Policies

- Procedures

- Governance documents

Create a link between legislation and implementation of practical good governance

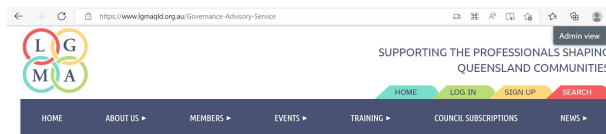


5

All tools will be available



[lgcentral.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/p/#/app/dashboard](http://lgcentral.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/p/#/app/dashboard)



The Governance Advisory Service provides advice and support to Queensland councils on core governance policies, approaches and practices.



6

3

## Out of Scope and Opportunities

- ❑ Policies and procedures relating to other LG business:
  - Human resources, waste, water, planning, library services, community engagement, economic development, delegations
  
- ❑ Day-to-Day advice on all thing's governance/local government
  - Governance Advisor will provide general comment and create avenues to obtain answer
  - Opportunity to leverage of existing portals/groups:
    - Regional Advisors
    - LGMA Governance Discussion Board
    - Create champion working groups



7

## Joint Reference Group

- ❑ DSDILGP
  - Bronwyn Blagoev, Executive Director Strategy and Services Delivery
  - Louisa Lynch, Director Governance and Capability
  - Jo Stephenson, Regional Director Northern
  - John Martinkovic, Regional Director Southern
  - Claire van Wel, Manager Governance and Capability
  - Sian Roberts, Senior Projects Officer (Governance and Capability)
  
- ❑ Peta Irvine, LGMA CEO
  
- ❑ Brett de Chastel, independent LG professional
  
- ❑ Governance Advisor – aka ME



8

4

## About Liza Perrett

- ❑ 29 years in local government
  - Three councils: metropolitan and regional
  - Varied experiences across all areas of council
- ❑ LGMA Board Member – CQ Director for 4 years (resigned)
- ❑ SEQ, State and National collaboration experience
  - SEQ Mayors and SEQ CEO's Forum
  - Member of the National Areas Alliance Group
  - CQ Governance Forums and groups
- ❑ Passion for practical governance
- ❑ Mackay based and love touch footy



9

## Benefits of good governance practices, policies and procedures

- ❑ Build trust and confidence
- ❑ Improve efficiency
- ❑ Improve consistency
- ❑ Assist to meet legislative compliance
- ❑ Improve service delivery



10

5



11

### [Logo Decisions | Utopia - YouTube](#)

Logo Decisions | Utopia

0:00 / 1:18

Watch on youtube.com

© 2022 LGMA Qld

12

## How it will work

- ❑ Focusing on LG specific legislation and governance compliance
- ❑ Free advisory service
  - Councils that receive specific advisory services will need to fund travel, accommodation and other incidentals and enter into a Service Agreement
- ❑ Expression of Interest or referral
  - Joint Reference Group will prioritise
- ❑ Work closely with Regional Directors and Regional Advisors
- ❑ Assistance can be:
  - as limited as a health check on the suite of policies in place or
  - extend to the development and implementation of core governance policies, procedures (awareness/training) and guidelines across council.

© 2022 LGMA Qld



13

## How it will work

- ❑ Focus on where resources are best utilised/needed
  - Opportunities for cross pollination of Council policies and collaboration
  - Some Councils are doing these well, let's not reinvent the wheel
- ❑ Identified three categories
  1. Councils that need assistance, clear gaps in compliance and/or limited governance resources to develop and implement
  2. Councils that are operating with sound policies and governance practices but have some gaps and/or need assistance in refining their policies and/or implementing awareness of benefits of good governance
  3. Councils that have good operating governance and policy implementation, however, need a health check and review

© 2022 LGMA Qld



14

7

## How it will work

- ❑ Templates will be flexible for councils to customise
  - Acknowledge that one size does not fit all
- ❑ All developed material will be placed on LG Central
  - <https://lgcentral.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/p/#/app/dashboard>



- ❑ Constraints:
  - Limited to one resource – so need to prioritise
  - Two year funded programme



15

## What have we done so far

- ❑ Established a Local Government Policy/Document Compliance Matrix
- ❑ Health Check tool - self assessment
- ❑ Corporate Policy Framework Template and supporting tip sheets
  - Reference document only
  - Available on LG Central
- ❑ Governance Framework - draft
  - Reference document only



16

8



## Workshop Activities

- ❑ Group Discussions
  - Discussion on good policy, lessons learnt, constraints
- ❑ Socialise the Local Government Policy/Document Compliance Matrix
- ❑ Health Check assessment tool



17

## Group discussions

- ❑ Do governance frameworks/systems impact on organisational performance?
- ❑ To which stakeholders and regulators are councils principally accountable?
- ❑ What general and additional compliance burdens do we have as a Council?
  - How have they changed over the last five or 10 years?
- ❑ What governance mechanisms does your Council have in place to oversee its performance and protect its assets, including its reputation?
- ❑ How would you approach a transformation of governance in your council?



18

## What is good governance?

- What is fundamental to good policy development?
  
- What is fundamental to compliance to policy and governance procedures/systems:
  - For council?
  - For staff?
  
- Lessons Learnt / Constraints?

## LG Policy/Document Compliance Matrix

- Endorsed by the Joint Reference Group
- Thoughts?

## Health Check Assessment Tool

- Endorsed by the Joint Reference Group
- Individual/confidential
- General comments/response



21

## What would your Council benefit most

- Discussion
- E.g. Annual Governance Checklist



22

11

## Cheers to good governance and working together



© 2022 LGMA Qld

23

## Questions / Comments

- ❑ Draft templates
  - Consultation/engagement
  - Please provide your comments
  - Remember, one size doesn't fit all
- ❑ Liaison with Governance Advisory Service
  - Share our policy and procedure documents
  - Capacity to assist?



© 2022 LGMA Qld

24

12

**Liza Perrett**  
**ga@lgmaqld.org.au**

www.lgmaqld.org.au  
07 3174 5006