

Chaos Cost and Governance

To work with the State Minister of Local Government to develop a new act and regulations

1. To improve the development of new ideas.
2. To ensure your elected members are able to represent your wishes.
3. To ensure open and transparent government.
4. To reduce Council's waste and cost & ensuring Councils set their rate cap

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Overhaul for code on council rogues

Push for penalties as complaint costs spiral

MATT SMITH

COUNCILS will continue to be left to deal with their own misbehaving elected members until a stronger code of conduct is established.

The Local Government Association, the State Government and the Opposition are all in agreement the code of conduct that deals with misbehaving councillors needs to be overhauled.



Sunday Mail, December 31.



PUSH: Lorraine Rosenberg.

establish the best way to improve the Code, including further consultation with members," the spokeswoman said.

"Until that point, we encourage the LGA to continue to support councils in developing and managing standards for members."

Opposition Local Government spokesman David Pisoni said the code clearly needs to be changed to enable councillors to challenge their councils'

for members.

Opposition Local Government spokesman David Pisoni said the code clearly needs to be changed to enable councillors to challenge their councils' process, especially those that add extra cost for ratepayers.

"The current code of conduct is often used as a cover for council bureaucrats and factions to stifle elected members from reflecting their constituents wishes if they conflict with the council's agenda," Mr Pisoni said.

"We've seen councils spend \$40 million of ratepayers' money on lawyers in the last four years, sometimes defending or prosecuting these code of conduct violations."

To read my preliminary discussion papers on these click on the **Rates** and the **Chaos and Cost** buttons in "more info" Policies.

Informal Gatherings - Cr Hewitson Proposition

Informal Gathering provisions set out at section 90 of the *Local Government Act 1999* impose constraints on the capacity of Elected Members to develop ideas, contribute to strategy formulation and effectively represent the constituents that elect them.

Code of Conduct – Cr Hewitson Proposition

There are issues with the management of Code of Conduct investigations that effectively prevent Elected Members from engaging in an active 'defence' if the subject of an investigation, or from communicating information in relation to a Code of Conduct matter. It is also a means by which an elected member can be silenced by bureaucrats when acting on ratepayers concerns.

Conflict of Interest provision – Cr Hewitson Proposition

Conflict of interest provisions disempower elected members from representing the community in relation to council decisions that have potential to impact related parties, even when the impact is remote or removed.