



Local Government Victoria – Update

**2010 FinPro Conference
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Overview

- Local Government Victoria – major areas of focus
- Challenges facing local government
- Opportunities and priorities to address challenges
- Programs
- Other Key Government Agencies and the Sector



FOCUS AREA: Legislation

Recent

- Local Government (Councillor Conduct and Other Matters) Act 2008
- Local Government (Elections) Act 2008
- Local Government (Offences and Other Matters) Act 2009
- Local Government (Conflicting Duties) Act 2009
- Local Government (Brimbank City Council) Act 2009

2010

- Conflict of interest provisions?
- Electoral representation review provisions?



FOCUS AREA: Training, Reports and Guidelines

- Councillor training and training materials (SPARC)
- Annual Local Government in Victoria report
- Community Satisfaction Survey
- Guidelines/Strategies – eg: procurement and audit committees





FOCUS AREA: Capacity Building

- Asset & financial management
- Collaborative reform - CRB
 - Easy Biz
 - Shared Services
 - Local Government Procurement Strategy
 - Better Practice Local Laws Strategy
 - Local Actions on Affordable Housing
- Reducing Regulatory Burden





Challenges

- Long-term sustainability of regional and rural councils
- Supporting councils in responding to population growth and ageing
- Equipping local government to accommodate increased population density
- Support and inclusion of local government in responding to climate change
- Implementing the national reform agenda
- Ensuring all councils operate in a strong, effective accountability framework



Opportunities and Priorities

- Supporting councils to be more sustainable, resilient and responsive
- Reforming council systems and processes – linking to national reform agenda
- Continue legislative reform to strengthen accountability and transparency
- Strengthening councils' capacity through training and system development
- National Reform Fund



Local Government Programs

- Victoria Grants Commission
- Public library programs
 - including *Living Libraries*
- Support for bushfire recovery



Other Key Government Agencies and the Sector

- Local Government Investigations and Compliance Inspectorate
- Essential Services Commission
- Victorian Ombudsman
- Victorian Auditor-General
- Victorian Competition & Efficiency Commission



Thank you

Any Questions?