Minister for Local Government

BILL PUTS THE LOCAL BACK IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

20 August 2013

A Bill to amend the Local Government Act was introduced in Parliament as the Country Liberals Government delivers on a commitment to give the voices back to those in the bush.

Last year Territorians in the bush voted for the Country Liberals in unprecedented numbers, voicing their dissatisfaction with the failed Super Shire model.

Minister for Local Government, Alison Anderson, said she’s proud to introduce this Bill which outlines the first step to giving the voices back to the bush.

“Territorians asked for their voices to be heard, and since being elected last year we have been listening,” Ms Anderson said.

“We went to great lengths to have a comprehensive consultation process visiting 177 communities, holding 279 meetings and receiving 32 written submissions.

“The resounding message we received from this process was that people felt disempowered, they felt like they didn't have a say; we’re changing that.

“Local Authorities, appointed by the community, will have real power through a set of Ministerial Guidelines that are set in law.

“The consultations also made it clear that communities had varying views of the responsibilities they would like to keep at a community level, that is why each Local Authority will be able to nominate what responsibilities they have.

“These reforms will help build a stronger society by having these reforms based on a stringent consultation process, not wholesale overnight changes.

“We are the only ones who can be trusted to take the bush with us on this great journey towards a more diverse and prosperous economy.

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