Media Release

Bess Price
Minister for Local Government and Community Services

Local Government Legislation Amendment Bill passed

24 March 2015

Minister for Local Government and Community Services Bess Price thanked the assembly for today passing the Local Government Legislation Amendment Bill.

“The Giles Government continues to demonstrate a commitment to improving local government in the Northern Territory,” Mrs Price said.

“The bill aims to improve the administration and reduce the costs of local government elections.

“The changes will reduce overhead costs for councils by extending the period in which casual vacancies can be filled by appointment, rather than a by-election to 18 months. Previously it was 12 months.

“Importantly, the timing of the next periodic election will be fixed to the 4th Saturday in August 2017 and will be every four years after.

“Councils will now have the flexibility to choose to conduct by-elections by themselves, engage an external electoral service provider or use the Electoral Commission. Previously they could only use the Electoral Commission.

“Municipal councils will now be able to choose to conduct by-elections by postal voting only and whether to fill the mayor or equivalent through election by councillors or through popular election.”

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