

**VLGA**

# Strategic Plan

**2023–2027**

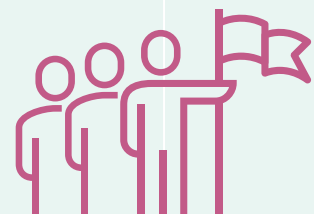

*Your Councillor Support Network*

The VLGA is an independent organisation that supports councils and councillors in good governance.

## Vision for Local Government across Australia

- A diverse and growing network of community leaders elected to local government who are more connected, informed, and capable of providing good governance for the communities they serve
- Communities, economies, and the environment are well governed; people feel they belong, can contribute, and thrive
- Ways of working within councils are enhanced and conduct is harmonious and inclusive
- Elected representatives are supported and trusted to make good community-centred and socially, environmentally, and economically responsible decisions
- The VLGA is valued and respected as the go-to place for elected representatives to network, access standards of good governance, be informed about new and emerging issues, and develop their community leadership and engagement capabilities

Good governance is about the processes for making and implementing decisions. It's not about making 'correct' decisions, but about the best possible process for making those decisions.



This strategic plan aims to address some of the current challenges to good governance.

- Insufficient support for individual councillors to work effectively with challenges and conflictual situations
- Inadequate support for councils and councillors to address conflict and differences early and respectfully
- Inconsistent understanding, awareness & application of governance standards for local government that are reflective of the Act, regulation and good practice
- Little understanding within the community/'voters' of the role of local government and the responsibilities of councillors
- Structural barriers that inhibit or present challenges to local government in providing good governance

The VLGA will pursue four strategic objectives as part of the organisation's 2023-2027 Strategic Plan.

### Build councillor expertise and capability

- ## 2 Enhance practice and thought leadership on good governance

- a) Provide councillors with regular opportunities to share experience, expertise and learning
- b) Produce evidence-based, good practice-informed resources on issues relevant to the councils, councillors, and good governance
- c) Engage in research and other initiatives to build a contemporary body of knowledge on good governance in local government
- d) Lead and promote the translation of good governance practice into policy and standards
- e) Lead advocacy initiatives focussed on systemic and structural change to enable and enhance good local governance

## Work in coalition to educate and inform

- #### 4 Strengthen and extend the value of the VLGA

a) Refine message and strengthen the brand of the VLGA

- ## VLGA Goals

- ## Principles Underpinning our Work

**People focused** – Decisions are made to maximise value for VLGA members and the communities they serve

- ✓ The extent to which elected representatives are trusted as the third tier of government (community-led) in their communities
- ✓ The promotion of the VLGA as a valuable and trusted resource for new and emerging elected representatives in local government using the 'net promoter score'.
- ✓ The contribution of the VLGA in presenting regular and meaningful insights to public discussions and decisions around local government policy and practice.