

SUPPORT OUR WA COUNCIL WORKERS

KEEP LOCAL GOVERNMENT LOCAL



Council services should remain in public hands – delivered by locals for locals.

Let's resist moves to outsource our essential services to the lowest bidder.



Keep Local Government Local

What's happening?

The McGowan Government is currently conducting two reviews, which could impact the delivery of local government services in this state.



These are reviews of the:

- › Local Government Act 1995
- › State Industrial Relations System

Taken together, these reviews could result in:

- › privatisation of essential local services
- › outsourcing jobs to interstate and overseas firms, and
- › more insecure work across the local government sector.

That's why we need our voice to be heard.

Why the reviews?

At the moment, some local government authorities and their employees are regulated by the Federal industrial relations system and some by the State. Each council works differently and each system has different rules. The State Government has asked for this to be reviewed.

Meanwhile, for the first time in more than 20 years, the Local Government Act is being reviewed to ensure it is meeting the needs of the Western Australian community and local government sector.

What do we want from these reviews?

1. Stop privatisation

The WA Local Government Association is lobbying the State Government to allow councils to outsource essential services to profit-seeking corporations.

These corporations would be given our public assets and controlled by an unelected board of directors – free to cut wages and fatten profits ready for sale to the highest bidder.

They call them beneficial enterprises, and it's the first step towards privatisation.

2. Local employment conditions

Just like our counterparts in other states, council workers in Western Australia should be subject to our own laws, rather than being controlled by Canberra.

The WA Industrial Relations commission is far superior to the

Federal Fair Work Commission, with two superior awards that protect workers' rights. Let's stop the confusion and ensure all council workers are protected by our state system.

3. No Compulsory tendering

In Victoria, local governments are forced to send some of their contracts out for compulsory tendering. With their community focus, smaller metro and regional councils simply can't compete on price against large-scale external contractors.

In Victoria, more and more local services are being outsourced to big multinational companies. This means fewer local jobs, lower pay for workers, and services provided by companies far removed from the ratepayers they serve.



The dangers of local government privatisation



The WA Local Government Association (WALGA) wants councils to be allowed to outsource essential services to profit-seeking corporations. These so called beneficial enterprises are just the first step to privatisation.

Privatisation means poorer services and lack of transparency and accountability to the community, and lower wages for local government workers.

The quality of services would suffer, there'd be fewer jobs and we'd see more casual and insecure work.

WALGA wants to follow the lead of Victoria and New Zealand, where it is common practice for external boards to own council assets valued at hundreds of millions of dollars. These corporations are run on a completely commercial basis.

In New Zealand, up to 75 per cent of council activity is controlled by unelected and unaccountable corporate directors who operate these entities in the interests of an unstated corporate agenda. Profit comes first, with the needs of local people a distant second.

Citywide fat cats get fatter

In Victoria, local governments have been able to set up private companies to run essential services for more than a decade. One such private company, owned by the City of Melbourne, managed to extract more than \$32 million in dividends, primarily by cutting the wages of low-paid workers such as garbos and parks workers.

Citywide Service Solutions is owned by the City of Melbourne to carry out waste and other services. As an external contractor, Citywide pays its street cleaners, parks and garden workers only 80% of the wage levels they would receive under a direct hire arrangement.

The outsourcing has not been a handbrake on fat cat salaries. In fact, the CEO of Citywide is being paid more than the CEO of the City of Melbourne and in some years getting paid more than the Prime Minister to run what is basically a large council depot.

The corporatisation of local government services has created a whole new layer of council fat cats paid for by ordinary workers. Citywide garbos are out of pocket up to \$14,000 per year, while the Citywide CEO gets anywhere up to \$600,000 per year for his services.

Melbourne is not alone, councils across Victoria are also outsourcing work to these types of companies.



CITYWIDE SACKS SENIOR MANAGERS OVER FRAUD AND MISCONDUCT CLAIMS

Herald Sun



IPSWICH RATEPAYERS COST MILLIONS BY SECRETIVE COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT ARM

ABC News

COUNCIL EXECUTIVES RAKING IN BIG BUCKS

Herald Sun



Local rules for local workers

Our essential community services are provided by locals, for locals. That's why council workers in Western Australia should be subject to our own laws, rather than being controlled by Canberra and the Federal Fair Work Commission.

The majority of local government employees' conditions in Australia are governed by their own state system, including Queensland, New South Wales and South Australia, and the same should happen in WA. Not only does it make sense, it's better for workers and employers as it provides a more harmonious work environment.

The WA Industrial Relations System is far superior because:

- › You can't bargain away rights to leave and other conditions
- › Unions and local organisers have the right to access workplaces
- › The WA Industrial Relations Commission has a balanced and fair approach in negotiating outcomes for both workers and employers.
- › Workers can escalate issues of conflict to the Commission to be conciliated or arbitrated



How you can get involved

If you agree that we should keep local government local, there's a number of ways you can help support our campaign.

1 Sign our parliamentary petition

Contact your local ASU delegate to sign our physical petition.

2 Sign our online petition

www.change.org/p/keep-local-government-local/

3 Follow us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/KeepLocalGovernmentLocal/
and share our message with your network

4 Become a member of your union

Talk to your local ASU delegate about how you can protect your rights at work.

With your help, we can keep local government local for all of our communities.



To stay up to date with our campaign
and to sign the petition follow us
on Facebook.



Authorised by Wayne Wood, Australian Services Union WA
102 East Parade, East Perth 6004.