



Greiner pushes state to ease councils' burden

Jacob Saulwick

A state government register would help streamline the regulatory burdens local councils face, according to a review chaired by Nick Greiner.

The draft Independent Review of the NSW Regulatory Policy Framework, which was released this month, contains multiple recommendations for attempting to streamline the obligations on local government.

One of the recommendations is for the establishment of a register to be used by state governments to avoid creating unnecessary overlap and duplication for local councils.

Another recommendation is for state agencies to better recognise that local governments, when

implementing state policies, often become regulators themselves.

A more consistent approach at the state level "has the potential to achieve greater consistency in rules and regulations across local government areas," the review said.

In order to ensure state agencies consider the impact of regulation on state government, the review recommended that policy proposal evaluations should explicitly require consideration of local government issues.

"This will require closer engagement by NSW government agencies with local governments during the policy development process," the review said.

In his foreword to the draft review, Mr Greiner, a former NSW premier, wrote that regulation

should not be a "set and forget" exercise.

"Much like a school or a hospital, regulation needs regular maintenance and continuous monitoring to ensure that it remains fit for purpose and in the public interest," Mr Greiner wrote.

The review panel chaired by Mr Greiner is now seeking feedback on the draft report.

The Minister for Better Regulation, Matt Kean, said: "Regulation impacts the lives of everyone in NSW, which is why we need to make it easier for people to interact with government in their day-to-day lives.

"I am committed to reforming regulatory policy by utilising new data and digital technologies while focusing on the real experience of business and community."



Nick Greiner says regulation needs regular maintenance.
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