

#### **OVERVIEW**

#### Module 1: Basics of local government

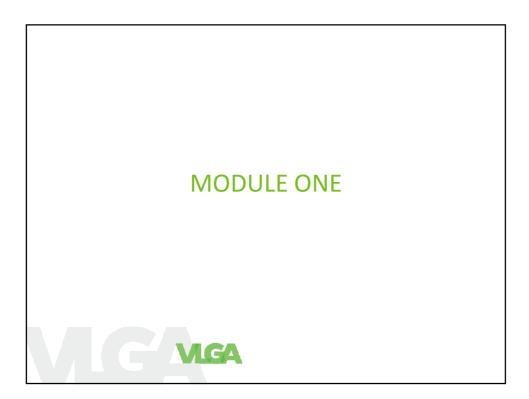
- What is local government
- Role of local government and elected councillors
- Challenges faced by local government

Break

#### Module 2: Election and candidacy

- Candidate eligibility
- 2020 election: key dates
- Campaign: issues and considerations









#### Purpose

- ".... local government is a distinct and essential tier of government consisting of democratically elected Councils having the functions and powers that the Parliament considers are necessary to ensure the peace, order and good government of each municipal district."
  - Section 1, Local Government Act 2020



# ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND GOOD GOVERNANCE (CONT)

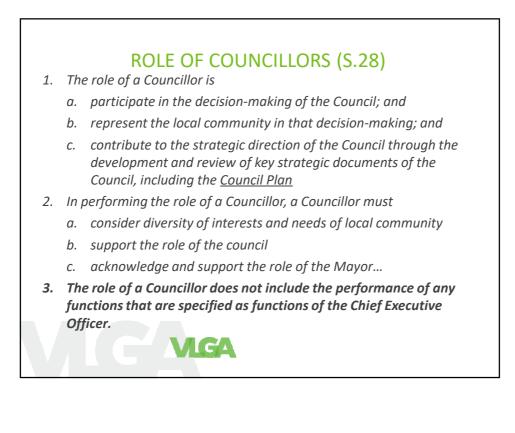
- Overarching governance principles (s9, *Local Government* Act 2020) include:
  - 1. ... in accordance with relevant law
  - 2. ... best outcomes.. including future generations
  - 3. ... economic, social and environmental sustainability... including mitigation and planning for climate change risks
  - 4. ... community to be engaged in strategic planning and decision making
  - 5. ... innovation and continuous improvement
  - 6. ... collaboration with other councils, government and statutory bodies
  - 7. ... ongoing financial viability
  - 8. ... regional, state and national plans are taken into account
  - 9. ... transparency in council decisions





### CURRENT ISSUES FACING COUNCILS

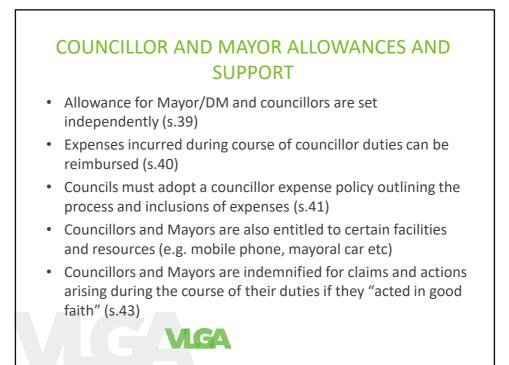
- COVID
- Local Government Act: major reforms
  - Wards and voting system
  - Rating issues (Review and capping in context of COVID pressures)
  - Powers and tenure of Mayors
  - Strengthened councillor code of conduct process
- Impact of climate change on council assets and operations
- Maintaining adequate funding, inc. from State and Federal governments
- Land use planning
- Upgrading technology and capacity



# MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR (S.18-27) Role of mayor (s.18) chair meetings and are spokesperson/the face of council lead community engagement on development and annual reporting the council plan

- assist councillors understanding their roles and promote good behaviour
- Advise CEO on setting of Council. agendas
- civic and ceremonial duties (e.g. citizenship ceremonies)
- appoint councillor to chair delegated committees (s.19)
- Mayor/Deputy Mayor are elected by councillors for 1 or 2 year term (s.25 – s.27)\*









#### PENALTIES UNDER THE ACT INCLUDE: Not taking oath of office within 3 months of being elected (s.31) -• vacancy of office of councillor · Acting as a councillor when not qualified or ceasing to hold office (s.38 120 penalty units [1 penalty unit = \$165.22], or 12 months imprisonment) • Misuse of position to gain or cause detriment (s.123, 600 penalty units or 5 years imprisonment) • Directing staff (s.124, 120 penalty units) Disclosure of confidential information (s.125, 120 units) Failure to declare material conflict of interest (s.130, 120 penalty • units) • Failure to lodge initial/biannual personal interest returns/false returns (s.133/134, 60 penalty units)

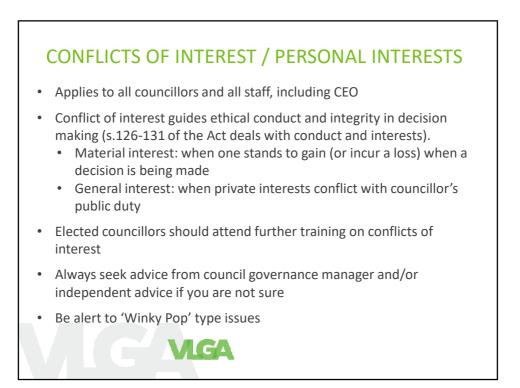


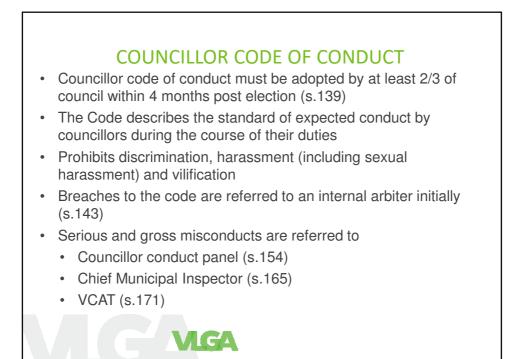


## CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (S.46)

- Recruitment & performance management conducted by mayor and councillors in line with CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy
- Provides advice and support to mayor and councillors
- Responsibility for council operations, including staff, in line with adopted council workforce plan, with projected staffing for minimum of 4 years
- Delegates responsibilities to appropriate staff(s.47)
- A sound working relationship between the CEO and elected representatives is critical to the success of councils





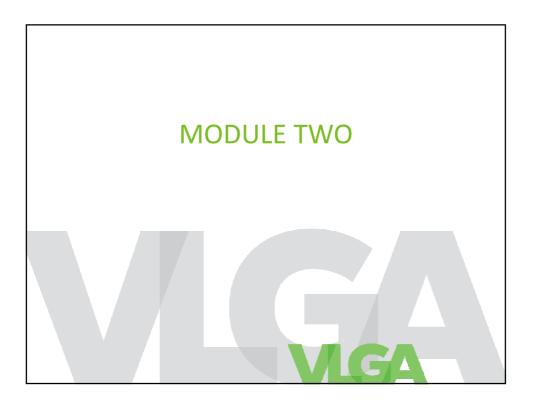












# **VICTORIAN COUNCILS**

79 councils in Victoria

Population can range from 4,500 – 188,000

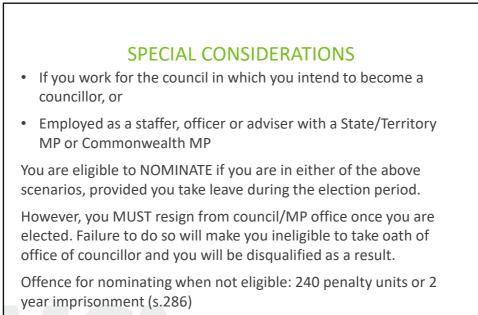
Revenue can range from \$15 - 500 million

Roles and functions of councils and councillors are outlined in the new Local Government Act (2020)

The new *Local Government* Act 2020 will be phased in over a four-year period to 2024.



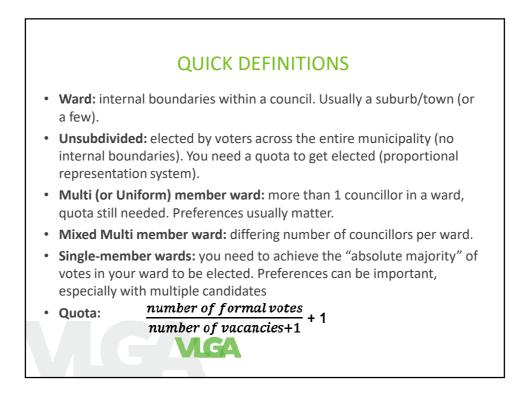


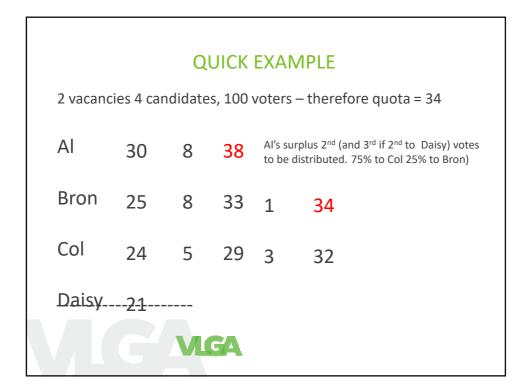










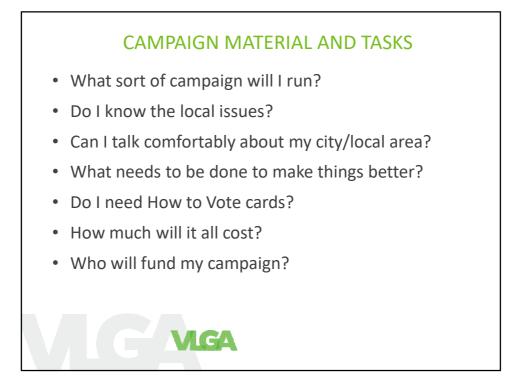


KEY DATES FOR 2020 I	ELECTIONS
Entitlement Day	28 August 2020 (close of roll at 4pm)
Opening of nominations and finalization of voters' roll	17 September 2020
Close of nominations and ballot order drawn	22 September 2020 (12 noon)
Deadline for candidate statement, photo and questionnaire Early voting begins	23 September 2020 (12 noon)
Mail out of postal ballot packs/Uncontested ward notices	6-8 October 2020
Close of early voting	23 October 2020 (6 pm)
Election day	24 October 2020
Postal votes must be received	30 October 2020 (12 noon)
All results declared	13 November 2020

#### **BEING A CANDIDATE**

- Who am I or who do I want to be known as?
  - What are my values?
  - What am I passionate about (and how do they relate to local government)?
  - What are my key messages?
  - Where do I start?
    - Council Plan
    - Issues facing the community
    - Have a conversation with your family and close friends
    - <u>https://www.vlga.org.au/sites/default/files/Your%20Campaign</u> %20Toolkit%20-%20April%202020.pdf
- Being a credible & knowledgeable candidate





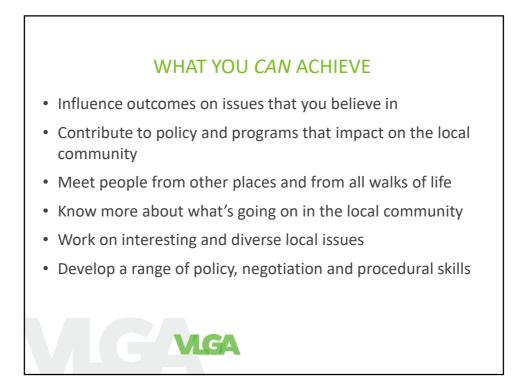


CAMPAIGN TIPS		
<ul> <li>Let people know you are a candidate</li> <li>Make time for your campaign</li> <li>Be authentic</li> <li>Be prepared to step out of your comfort zone/be challenged</li> <li>Seek out supporters</li> <li>Catch up with other candidates</li> <li>Use plain English</li> <li>Read safe campaigning guidelines https://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/r esilience-and-emergency-management/coronavirus-covid-19-information</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>* Run as a single issue candidate</li> <li>* Over reliance on one campaign platform/tool</li> <li>* Don't try and do everything yourself</li> <li>* Don't expect everyone to share your views/vote for you</li> <li>* Don't take anonymous donations</li> </ul>	

# FUND RAISING AND CAMPAIGN FINANCES (S.306 – S.307)

- \$500 donation/gift disclosure threshold applies to candidates and councillors
- Threshold includes multiple donations from same source and inkind support (e.g. billboard, car rental etc)
- You do not need to spend big in your campaign
- Consider local fund raising opportunities (e.g. dinner, movies etc)
- Keep a record of all donations
- You must submit a donation return within 40 days after the election day, even if your donations are below the disclosure threshold
- CEO must ensure all donation returns are available on the council's website





# YOU CANNOT DO THIS ALONE

- Work with other councillors, CEO and staff
- Work with other tiers of government
- Make the difficult decisions and acknowledge mistakes
- Stay in touch with your community
- Be supported by your friends and family

MGA

- Be open to constructive criticism
- Have a curious mind









