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Bills Backgrounder  
No 1, September 2008

## **Local Government Amendment (Councillor Conduct and Other Matters) Bill 2008**

This Bills Backgrounder provides web links to legislation, reports, documents and statistics relating to issues raised by this bill before the Victorian Parliament.

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## Bills, Acts & Regulations

[Local Government Amendment \(Councillor Conduct and Other Matters\) Bill 2008](#)  
[Statement of Compatibility](#) & Minister's [Second Reading](#) speech.

[Local Government Act 1989](#)  
[Local Government \(Consequential Provisions\) Act 1989](#)  
[Local Government \(Further Amendment\) Act 2005](#)  
[City of Melbourne Act 2001](#)  
[Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 1998](#)

The bill includes a requirement that the minister review annually the limits and ranges of councillor allowances, having regard to the movements in the level of remuneration for executives, as defined in the [Public Administration Act 2004](#), which includes holders of statutory offices.

[Local Government \(General\) Regulations 2004](#)  
[Local Government \(Finance and Reporting\) Regulations 2004](#)  
[Local Government \(Electoral\) Regulations 2005](#)  
[City of Melbourne \(Elections\) Regulations 2001](#)  
[Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal Rules 2008](#)

## Background Documents

[Better Local Governance Consultation Paper](#): Reforms to Support Councillor Conduct and Other Matters (2007)

[Local Government \(Councillor Remuneration Review\) Panel Report 2008](#) was completed on 25 January 2008 . The Panel's recommendations were considered by Government and the majority of the recommendations were endorsed.

Read the [Government Response](#) to the recommendations of the Local Government (Councillor Remuneration Review) Panel Report April 2008.

The new package and policy will take effect immediately after the forthcoming 29 November 2008 Local Government general elections. Read more about the [Councillor Remuneration Review](#) . Read the Local Government (Councillor Remuneration Review) Panel's [terms of reference](#).

[Ensuring Unbiased Democratic Council Decision Making](#) (2008) provides guidance to councillors in understanding the common law rule relating to bias and identifying whether the rule may apply to them when making decisions in particular instances.

[The Pecuniary Interest Hand Book](#) (an earlier 1998 guide introduced by The Office of Local Government under a previous Victorian Minister Rob Maclellan)

## Comparative Legislation

NSW

[Local Government Act 1993 No 30](#)

[City of Sydney Act 1988 No 48](#)

[Local Government \(General\) Regulation 2005](#)

QLD

[Local Government Act 1993](#)

WA

[Local Government Act 1995](#)

SA

[Local Government Act 1999](#)

[Local Government \(Implementation\) Act 1999](#)

NT

[Local Government Act](#)

TAS

[Local Government Act 1993](#)

New Zealand

[Local Government Act 2002](#)

## Useful information and websites

[Local Government Victoria](#) (Department of Planning & Community Development)

[Good Governance Overview](#) (Municipal Association of Victoria)

Check out the Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) '[Governance](#)' webpage to read their [Good Governance Guide](#) and [Code of Good Governance](#)

The Standards Board for England provides an independent, national overview of how local authorities promote and improve the ethical behaviour of their members. See their [Model Code of Conduct](#) for local authorities 2007.

You can read [Government Media Releases](#) here relating to local councillors and their conduct.

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