

Good Governance Principles for Local Government Authorities

Ten Principles that Promote Good Governance

Good governance can offer a number of important benefits to local government authorities (“**LGA**s”), including:

- better organisational strategies, policies and plans;
- improved operational effectiveness;
- more prudent regulatory compliance, financial and risk management;
- improved community engagement and communication flow;
- increased likelihood and degree to which the LGA performs for the benefit of the community it serves and delivers on its legislative mandate.

While they may not be exhaustive, the following ten principles provide a useful starting point for an LGA to promote good governance practice having regard to the particular circumstances and needs of the LGA’s district and community.

Ten Principles

1. Clarity of purpose, strategy and performance objectives.
2. Build and manage organisational capacity and capability to deliver on purpose and strategy.
3. Lay solid, organisational and cultural foundations to assure the sound governance and management of the LGA.
4. Structure, populate and manage the Council to effectively govern the LGA.
5. Promote ethical and responsible decision making, and integrity in fulfilling the responsibilities off office.
6. Respect the rights of electors, residents and ratepayers and engage and communicate effectively with stakeholders.
7. Meet statutory and regulatory compliance and reporting requirements.
8. Assure the financial standing and integrity of the LGA.
9. Prudentially recognise and manage risk.
10. Benchmark and report against these “Good Governance Principles for Local Government Authorities”.