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Greens Plan to Reinvigorate Local Government wins endorsement

The Greens "Plan to Reinvigorate Local Government" has been endorsed by the Local Government & Shires Association.

Greens candidate for the Bega electorate, Harriett Swift has welcomed the endorsement, saying that the six point reform plan would deliver better local government.

In brief, the plan proposes to:

1. Return planning powers to local government
2. Ensure openness in local government
3. Provide financial autonomy to local government
4. Prevent forced amalgamations
5. Restore local democracy
6. Reform the local government Code of Conduct to avoid politicisation of complaints against individual councillors.

"To achieve their potential, local councils need real financial autonomy, greater democracy and local accountability, which the Greens reform plan will deliver," Ms Swift said.

"The Greens believe that local government, as the level of government closest to the people, must be reinvigorated in NSW."

"There is a role for State government to work in partnership with local government to ensure that local governments have sufficient power and resources to govern effectively."

"The Greens support grassroots decision making which maximises community input. We will work with all parties in the next Parliament to achieve these reforms to ensure greater democracy, real financial autonomy and more local accountability in local government."

"For too long local government has been the plaything of state governments," Ms Swift said.

14th March 2011

For Greens Plan to Reinvigorate Local Government, see:

<http://nsw.greens.org.au/sites/greens.org.au/files/Greens%20Plan%20to%20Reinvigorate%20Local%20Government.pdf>

Endorsement by the Local Government Shires Association [media release](#).

media release

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