

# THE **MPG** CHRONICLE

*Organisational excellence in the public sector*



## **Governance Compliance - Are you ready for the unexpected?**

*By Scott Mead, Director*

Each day rolls into another and before you know it, another week has passed. Everything seems to be running smoothly and then one little spanner in the works and an illusory storm hits! Is your organisation equipped to cope?

Protecting your information, maintaining consistency in delivery and compliance with regulations are key to ensuring governance compliance. With the impending local government elections, now is an opportune time for Councils to be reviewing the effectiveness of their governance model to establish compliance levels and ensure they are meeting their strategic targets and delivering optimum performance. The Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs have compiled checklists to assist local governments to ensure they are complying with the Local Government Act 2009 and the Local Government Regulation 2012.

This checklist is very useful to staff in reviewing compliance, but it is not an exhaustive list of Council's compliance obligations as it only covers the LG Act and Regs. As we all know, Councils are bound by a range of legislated responsibilities other than our Local Government legislation. In addition, a checklist can only provide a quantitative analysis, so if Council wants to confirm how well they are delivering on their obligations, a qualitative assessment by an experienced professional is required.

With a comprehensive knowledge of Local Government processes and legislation, our team of governance specialists within MPG are well placed to provide expertise and advice.

An MPG governance compliance review will produce quantitative and qualitative assessments of all key areas, including,:-

- Corporate and operational planning
- Budgeting
- Statutory Policies and Requirements
- Council website
- Registers
- Annual Reporting
- Ethics
- Administrative Action Complaints
- Meeting procedures (minutes and resolutions)
- Decision making
- Separation of Roles
- Community Engagement
- Organisational Structure
- Management Capacity
- Delegations
- Disaster Management
- Organisational Risk Management
- Internal Audit
- Resource Sharing & Relationships with other agencies

A Governance Compliance Review will provide Council and management with a clear picture of the current situation as well as an action plan to address any identified deficiencies. Through this process, Council, management and the community have a clear picture of how well the organisation is meeting its obligations from an objective third party assessment.

The benefit and value of this for Council is that being able to demonstrate the facts, will hopefully reduce the level of uninformed comment and criticism leading into next year's election.

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