

Tight Times for Valuation Reform

State legislation being debated this week could see a Valuer General act as a sole valuation authority for local government districts to undertake all property valuations annually.

The State Taxation Acts Amendment Bill 2017 proposes that councils will pay a fee to access the valuations data for rating purposes.

The proposed changes are expected to double Victorian council's costs from \$20 million every second year to \$20 million annually according to the Municipal Association of Victoria.

These changes would be in addition to rate capping which already restricts revenue sources for local government.

South Gippsland Shire Mayor Councillor Ray Argento said the proposed legislation needed to be carefully considered due to the potential impacts.

"While we understand that the valuation and rating system needs to be as efficient as possible it is not logical to place further burden on our ratepayers for it to be achieved.

"Local government will be forced to make further cuts to services and amenities if the proposed changes are passed.

"No benefits have been identified for communities or local councils as part of proposed legislation change. We request that the State Government takes its time to consider such a change and the impacts this would have not only for councils but our wider communities," said the Mayor.

The State Taxation Acts Amendment Bill 2017 is being debated this week in the Victorian Parliament.

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