

# Local Government (Empowering Councils) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025

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With regard to the mayor being the official spokesperson for council I feel this is separating councils from their residents. As a media operator I understand the convenience and potential protection of narrative but it distances real issues from residents. The mayor is not a person expected to and nor empowered to have knowledge of many of the areas they will speak on behalf of diluting the ability for residents to trust the communications and lends itself to polarisation and division. The mayor as official spokesperson is too susceptible to spin and loses authenticity. Skilling a wider range of speakers will help residents through local media or gov channels relate and digest important information. We understand other govts may require this centralisation but i believe it's worth fighting for this separation at local level. We the residents will listen more relate more to those more relevant to the topics they represent.