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## **Media Information**

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### **Business SA calls for major reform to governance**

The State's leading business organisation, Business SA, has released a visionary document calling for significant reform of South Australia's governance.

*A Better Democracy in South Australia – Achieving the Best Governance of Our State*, calls for a bold course of action to reform the structures of State governance across South Australia.

“For South Australia to be competitive, reforms should be implemented so that the structures of State governance can carry out their functions more effectively,” Business SA Chief Executive Officer, Peter Vaughan said.

“While South Australia appears as a model of democratic governance, it must be questioned whether it is progressing to the modern day democracy we require.

“The appropriate governance of a jurisdiction is vital for providing an effective environment that businesses can thrive in.

“Business SA has made its views clear over a number of years on the way that South Australia is governed and this document brings together and adds to these views, providing recommendations and direction for improving the State.

The document addresses the structure, representation and processes of parliament, cabinet, local government, the public sector and public service.

Mr Vaughan said that while significant changes in politics take time, governments need to have these issues put before them regularly.

“Government is far from flexible and this is evident in the resistance to its own reform.

“It is responsive at election time, but in a broader sense there is insufficient evidence of collaborative activity at all levels of governance.

“We've called for action across the board, from the Legislative Council and House of Assembly, through to local government, public sector and Adelaide City Council.

“Any objective analysis of the South Australian political system exposes weaknesses in the chain of responsibility, accountability and transparency.

“Reform will ensure that the structures of State governance can carry out their functions more effectively, reducing duplication and increasing cooperation.





“We are certainly challenging the effectiveness of the current system and have made a number of bold recommendations that would achieve outcomes that will progress the economic sustainability of South Australia.”

The publication is available online at [www.business-sa.com](http://www.business-sa.com)

### **Key Recommendations**

- > The document presents almost 60 key recommendations for change that will assist South Australia’s governance of its jurisdiction.
- > The key recommendations with action points include:
  - Given that the Legislative Council is very unlikely to be abolished, reform the Legislative Council so that it operates more efficiently and better reflects democratic processes.
  - Reform voting procedures for electing representatives in both the House of Assembly and the Legislative Council to better reflect democratic processes and particularly to remove procedures which effectively place voting preferences in the hands of political parties.
  - Parliamentary procedures should be reformed, so that the Presiding Officer of each House is independent and that the Parliament operates far more efficiently, effectively and transparently.
  - Local Government in South Australia should be rationalised, with the Adelaide City Council replaced by a City of Adelaide Authority, metropolitan Councils amalgamated into three “super” Councils and regional Councils restructured.
  - The relationship between the State Government and Local Government needs to be clarified and made more transparent.
  - The Public Service and the Public Sector more broadly, need to be rationalised and made more efficient, effective and transparent.

Ends.