

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER
(To Elected Members and CEOs)

INTERNAL REVIEW OF COUNCIL ACTIONS

I have received a number of public inquiries in relation to the commencement and operation of new provisions in the *Local Government Act 1999* relating to the internal review of Council actions (Chapter 13, Part 2).

Section 270, *Local Government Act 1999*, sets out a requirement for Councils to establish procedures for the review of decisions of the Council, including employees and persons acting on behalf of the Council.

Section 271, *Local Government Act 1999*, sets out provisions relating to any mediation or neutral evaluation schemes that may be established by a Council as part of, or in addition to, the review of decision procedures under s. 270.

Section 43, *Local Government (Implementation) Act 1999*, states that a council must establish procedures under Chapter 13 Part 2 of the 1999 Act within six months after the conclusion of the general election for the council to be held in May 2000. As a consequence, most Councils should have established procedures under s. 270 by late November and all Councils should have established such procedures by now.

In addition, Councils must ensure that copies of the procedures are available for inspection and purchase (s. 270(5)) and, as far as is reasonably practicable, make the documents available on the Internet (s. 132(3)).

It is in the best interest of all Councils and the communities they represent, to make every endeavour to put in place appropriate review procedures.

Should you require any assistance or advice in relation to the Local Government Acts, I encourage you to contact either the Office of Local Government (telephone 8207 0600 or country freecall 1800 352 224) or the Local Government Association (8224 2000).

HON DOROTHY KOTZ MP
MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT
MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS