

LOCAL LAW REVIEW

Round 1 Community Engagement

knox



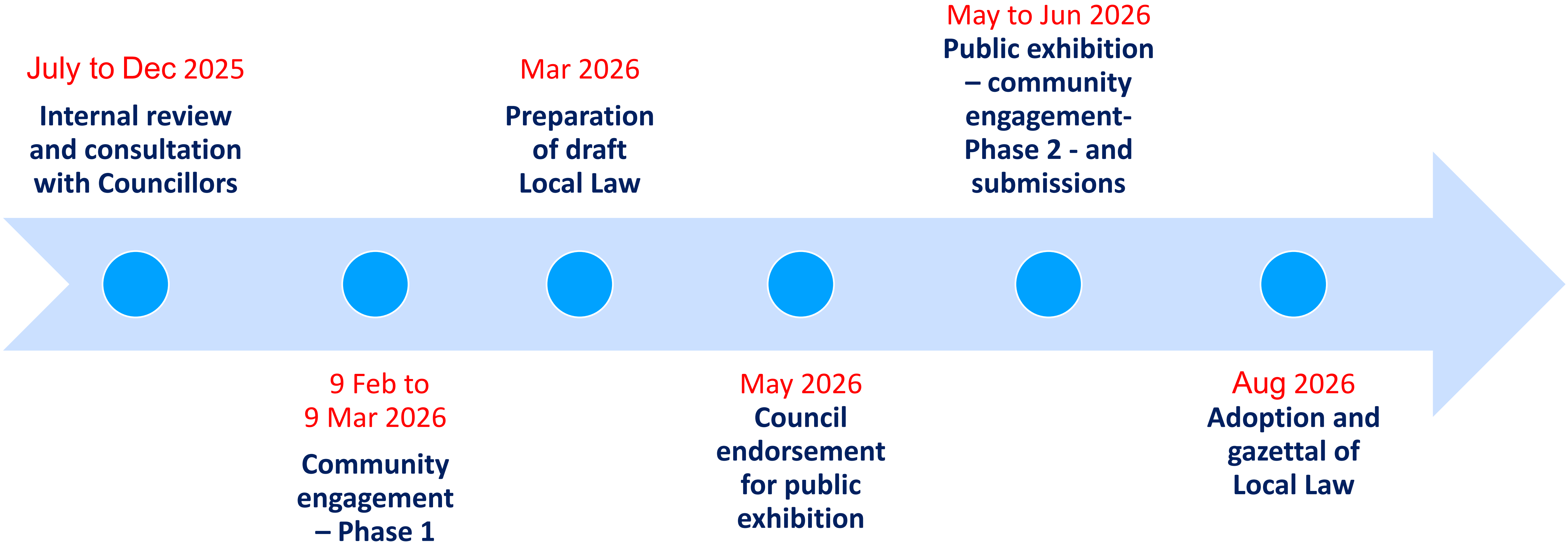
OVERVIEW

- Background
- Approach and timeline
- What's happened so far
- Engagement overview
- Engagement topics explained
- Next steps

BACKGROUND

- The Amenity Local Law 2020 (the Local Law) came into operation in 2020 and will cease to operate on 1 July 2030, unless revoked earlier
- Officers have identified certain matters that impact on the effectiveness of the Local Law and that certain improvements will enhance the delivery of its objectives
- The Local Law is now half way through its life, and best practice is to review the local law to ensure it is appropriate and effective for the community

APPROACH AND TIMELINE



WHAT'S HAPPENED SO FAR

The Review process to date has included:

- Detailed document analysis.
- Benchmarking of other Council Local Laws, where applicable.
- Engagement with internal departments on potential changes to the Local Law.
- Councillor briefings.
- Communication and engagement planning.

ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

Two phases of engagement:

- Phase 1: Initial feedback on proposed changes (Feb to Mar 2026)
 - Feedback on proposed changes to understand community sentiment and support
 - Opportunity for community to suggest other changes for Council to consider
- Phase 2: Formal feedback on the draft Local Law (May to June 2026)
 - Statutory process to seek feedback on the draft Local Law
 - Phase 1 engagement summary provided, with information to let the community know how their initial feedback was considered

ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

- Phase 1 engagement activities:
 - Have Your Say online portal
 - Questionnaire
 - Send in a written submission
 - Educative tools (e.g. FAQ's, document library)
 - Hard copy survey upon request
 - Email a submission or enquiry locallawreview@knox.vic.gov.au
 - Write to Local Law Review, Knox Civic Centre, 511 Burwood Highway, Wantirna South 3152
 - In-person engagement (eg. pop ups at events)
 - Detailed communications plan to support engagement activities including targeted outreach to key stakeholders and hard to reach groups.

ENGAGEMENT TOPICS EXPLAINED

PART 2	Explanatory information	Proposed changes
Private land and neighbourhood amenity	These clauses address the amenity of private property. This includes unsightly or dilapidated land and buildings.	• Strengthen rules to more effectively deal with unsightly and dangerous land (e.g. disused excavations, incomplete building works, litter, overgrown vegetation, scrap material and graffiti). • A change that would let people living in Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO) areas burn off without a permit, as long as they follow safety conditions. Properties outside a BMO would still need a permit. • New rules to make sure outdoor lighting doesn't become a nuisance for neighbours.



ENGAGEMENT TOPICS EXPLAINED

PART 4	Explanatory information	Proposed changes
Animal management	These clauses are about the number and type of animals that can be kept, animal housing, waste, feeding and control of animals.	• Apply the animal number limits to all properties across the municipality, not just those under 4,000m². This change won't affect how many animals you can keep, it simply makes the rules consistent for everyone. • Clearer, stronger rules to ensure animals are securely housed and properties have proper fencing so they can't wander off. • Stronger measures to keep the community safe from dog attacks. If a dog is involved in an attack, the owner must stay at the scene and give their details. For dogs that have been involved in a dog attack shown aggressive or uncontrolled behaviour, Council may also require an Animal Management Agreement to help manage the risk.



ENGAGEMENT TOPICS EXPLAINED

PART 5	Explanatory information	Proposed changes
Council-managed land and roads	These clauses address behaviour and activities on Council land.	• Clearer rules to address activities and behaviour that may impact the safety and amenity of council staff and the public in council buildings and on council land. • Manage election signage to help keep our public spaces safe and tidy during elections by reducing clutter and making sure signs don't block visibility or create hazards. Election signage - 2 suggested options: Option A Remove special areas for election signs (align with other councils) Option B Keep election sign areas but make candidates responsible for safety and clutter.



ENGAGEMENT TOPICS EXPLAINED

PART 9	Explanatory information	Proposed changes
Council assets, trees and regulating building sites 	These clauses generally address activities related to building works and are intended to protect both Council assets and neighbourhood amenity.	Strengthen the rules so that everyone has a responsibility to protect and maintain Council assets at all times—not only when building works are happening. This includes preventing damage to drains and stormwater systems, keeping soil and debris off roads, and ensuring roads aren’t used or blocked in unsafe ways. New rules to regulate construction times to align with the same time of noise nuisances as per the Environment Protection Act 2017. • 7am to 6pm Monday to Friday; • 9am to 1pm on Saturday for residential construction and demolition sites; and • 7am to 1pm on Saturday for commercial and industrial construction and demolition sites. • Not permitted at any time on a Sunday or Public Holidays.

NEXT STEPS

- Community engagement phase 1 - 9 February to 9 March 2026
- Engagement outcomes help inform development of the draft Local Law
- Council endorsement for public exhibition, phase 2 engagement (May-June 2026)
- Review of public exhibition feedback/submissions on draft Local Law
- Final legal review and certification
- Adoption and gazettal (August 2026)