

# Dr Graeme Emonson Executive Director Local Government Victoria



Presentation to  
Essential Services Commission Public  
Participation Conference

26 October 2017

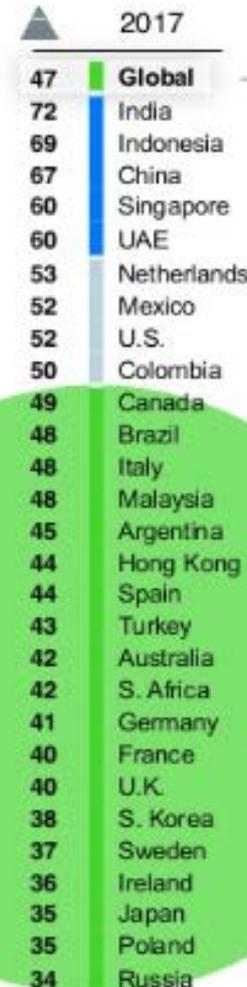


“Engagement requires effective participation, which builds trust and trust is essential to winning the consent of the governed, especially for long-term planning and policy decisions.”

## Trust Index A World of Distrust

Average trust in institutions,  
General Population, 2016 vs. 2017

- **Trusters**  
(60-100)
- **Neutrals**  
(50-59)
- **Distrusters**  
(1-49)



3-point decrease  
in the global  
Trust Index

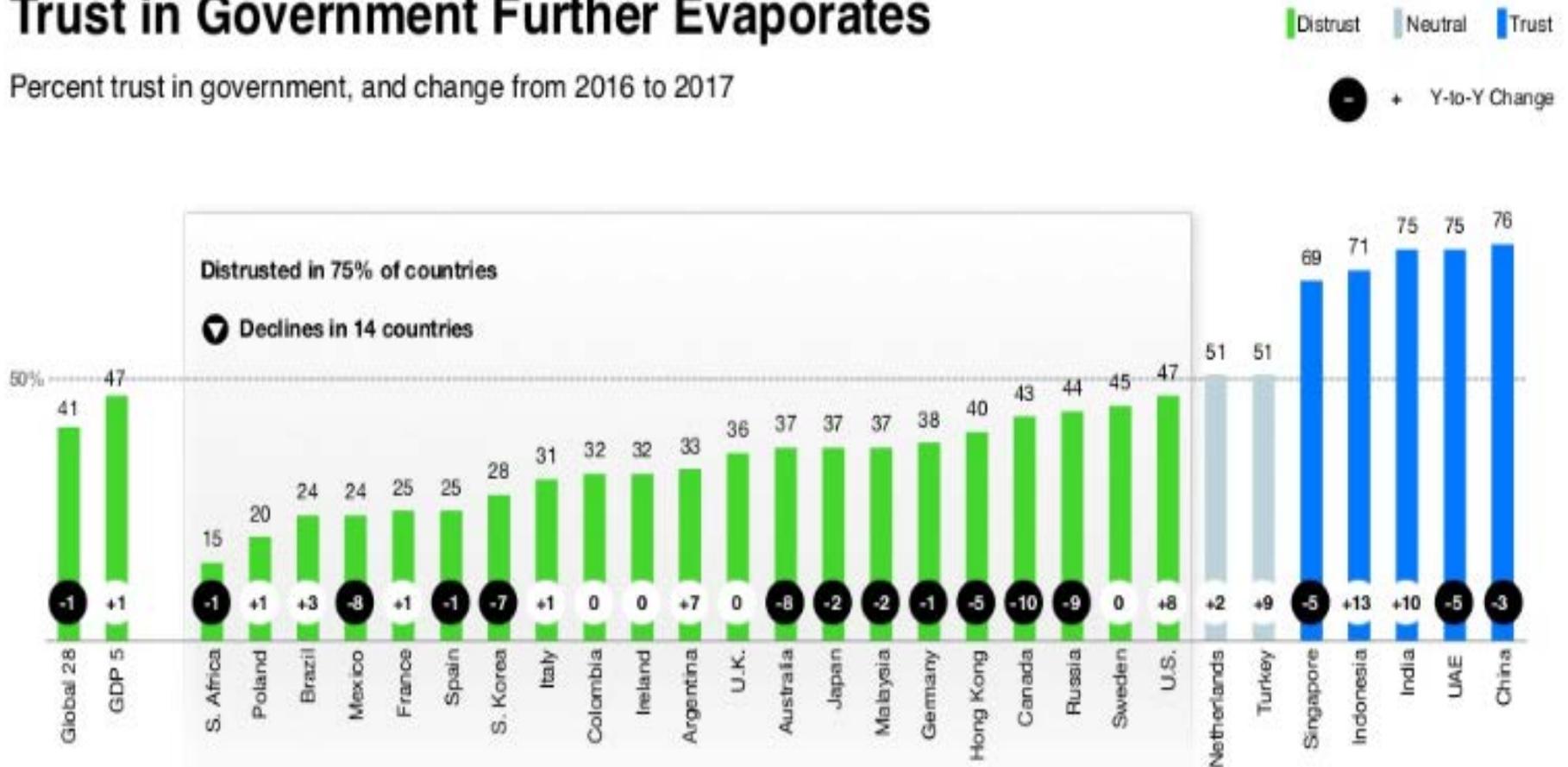
Trust declines in 21  
of 28 countries – the  
broadest declines  
since beginning  
General Population  
tracking in 2012

2 in 3 countries are  
now distrusters

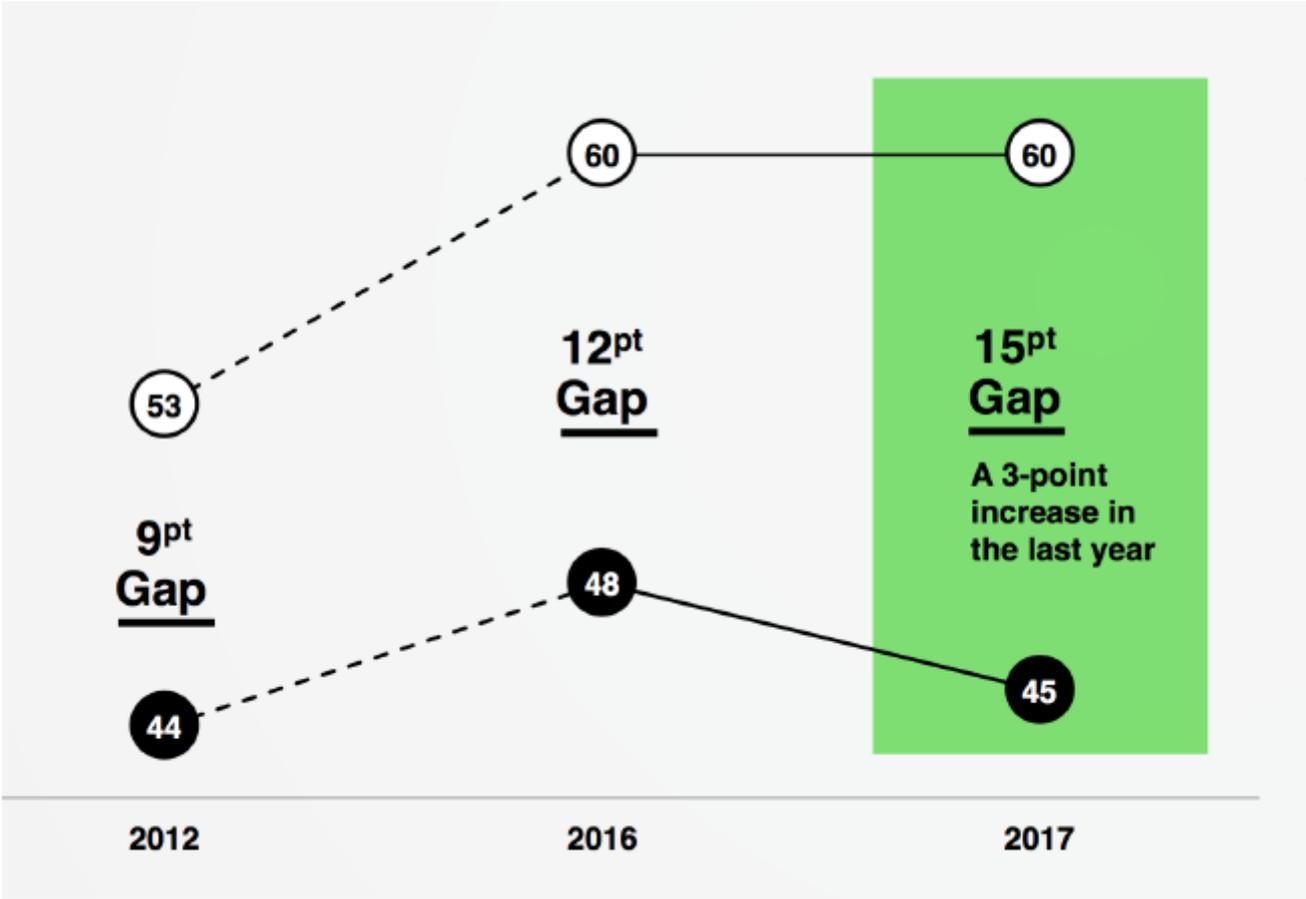
Source: 2017 Edelman Trust Barometer. The Trust Index is an average of a country's trust in the institutions of government, business, media and NGOs. General Population, 28-country global total.

## Trust in Government Further Evaporates

Percent trust in government, and change from 2016 to 2017



# The Rising Trust Gap



# The Quality of Government our second biggest problem?

**Table 18: 'What is the most important problem facing Australia today?' Response: 'quality of government and politicians', 2010-2016 (percentage and rank)**

	%	Rank
2010	11.2	3
2011	12.7	3
2012	13.1	2
2013	12.5	equal 2
2014	14.9	2
2015	8.7	4
2016	10.7	2

# Where We Sit on the Spectrum

INCREASING IMPACT ON THE DECISION 					
	<b>INFORM</b>	<b>CONSULT</b>	<b>INVOLVE</b>	<b>COLLABORATE</b>	<b>EMPOWER</b>
<b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL</b>	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public.
	<b>Review the Local Government Act</b>				
	<b>Local Government Performance and Reporting Framework</b>				
	<b>Aboriginal Local Government Action Plan</b>				
	<b>Model Financial Report</b>				
					<b>Geelong Citizen's Jury</b>

# Engage Victoria - Share ideas here



## Mallee Regional Partnership

Bordering the Murray River, the Mallee extends to the edge of the outback in north-west Victoria. Agriculture and horticulture drive the economy, with the areas around Mildura, Robinvale and Swan Hill among Victoria's most productive.

Last updated **10 Oct 2017**



## Fisheries proposed regulations 2017 - Regulatory Impact Statement

Have a say on the proposed regulations for recovering some of the costs of providing services to the commercial and recreational fishing sectors

Last updated **10 Oct 2017**



## Fairer Safer Housing

Help ensure that regulation of Victoria's rental sector meets the needs and expectations of tenants and landlords, now and into the future.

Last updated **09 Oct 2017**



## Bayside Special Development School

We are upgrading the Bayside Special Development School and we want your input into the new design



## West Gate Tunnel Project Inquiry and Advisory Committee

A joint Inquiry and Advisory Committee (IAC) has been appointed to consider the Environment Effects Statement, a draft planning scheme amendment, works approval application and public submissions associated with the West Gate Tunnel Project.



## Councils and Emergencies Consultation

Local Government Victoria (a division within DELWP) is leading work with the emergency management and local government sectors, aimed at enhancing the capacity and capability of local government in emergency management.

# Local Government Act Review – Project Lifecycle

## Project lifecycle



### September - December 2015

Identification of Issues through release of Discussion Paper

Submissions invited from the sector and community

Presentations on the review with the sector, including peak local government bodies



### December 2015 - March 2016

Consideration of submissions on the Discussion Paper

Technical Working Groups convened to identify and develop options on key topics for Directions Paper

Community Forums held throughout Victoria on reform ideas



### 2016

Release of **Act for the Future - Directions of a new Local Government Act** and consultation

Further consultation and opportunity to make a submission



### 2017

Drafting of a Local Government Bill and ongoing consultation



### 2018

Implementation of a new Local Government Act

## **Reform ideas: Discussion Paper (2015-16)**

### **Participation Spectrum: Inform/Consult/Involve/Collaborate**

- ✓ 348 submissions
- ✓ 10 community forums
- ✓ 12 commissioned papers
- ✓ 6 technical working groups
- ✓ Meetings with peak council and ratepayer associations.

**Reform Policy Directions:  
*Act for the Future (2016-17)***

**Participation Spectrum:  
Consult/Involve**

- ✓ 333 submissions responding to the Directions Paper
- ✓ 9 community forums and 9 forums with Mayors and Council CEOs
- ✓ Meetings with peak council and ratepayer associations.

## **Implementation Challenges (2017)**

### **Participation Spectrum : Collaborate**

- ✓ 7 technical working groups
- ✓ Meetings with council peak organisations, newly elected councillors and ratepayer groups
- ✓ Stakeholders meetings on specific reforms
- ✓ 4 focus groups with citizens on specific reforms.

# Exposure Draft Bill (2017-2018)

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“Although LGV has demonstrated better practice in a range of its own activities, it has not sought to address the low levels of community satisfaction with community consultation and engagement initiated by local councils. LGV should take a more active role in promoting processes and resources for better practice public participation.”

# Questions and Discussion

