

July 13, 2009



INFORMATION PAPER

Background

On 5th February 2009 the Minister for Local Government, Hon John Castrilli MLA, announced a range of Local Government Reform Strategies.

Local governments have been specifically requested to:

1. Take steps to voluntarily amalgamate and form larger local governments
2. Reduce the total number of elected members to between six and nine
3. Form appropriate regional groupings of councils to assist with the efficient delivery of services

Assessment Criteria

A range of criteria must be addressed in considering amalgamations and boundary changes. These include:

- Community of Interest
- Local Government Viability
- Effective Delivery of Local Government Services
- Financial Assessment
- Economic Factors
- Demographic Trends
- Transport and Communication
- History of the Area
- Physical and Topographic Features

Tasks and Timeframes

Local Governments are required to prepare and submit a Reform Submission by 31st August 2009.

Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup's Preferred Position

At its meeting on 25th March, the Council adopted the following position:

1. That without pre-empting the outcomes of discussions with adjoining Local Governments, Council's preferred options for structural reform are:
 - (a) The Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup remain as a sustainable local government as is;

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- (b) The formation of a formalised resource sharing model with adjoining consenting local governments provided there are financial efficiencies to be gained, the delivery of service is improved and representation and community of interest are maintained;
 - (c) Negotiate with adjoining local governments on boundary readjustments/amalgamations should it be envisaged that their boundaries be materially altered by other structural adjustment.
2. That Council advise the preferred number of Councillors for the Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup is nine as accepted on a recent review of Council representation.
 3. That the CEO and President meet with adjoining local governments to discuss options of boundary changes, amalgamations and resource sharing.

Community Consultation

A key part of the Structural Reform process is providing community members with an opportunity to contribute their views. All community comments will be included in the Shire's Structural Reform Submission.

Residents will be able to comment in the following ways:

1. By completing the Surveys posted to ratepayers or on the Shire's website
2. More detailed Information Paper and Survey available on the Shire's website- www.donnybrook-balingup.wa.gov.au
3. Balingup Community Workshop – Monday 20th July 5:00 – 6:30pm
4. Donnybrook Community Workshop – Monday 20th July 7:00 – 8:30pm
5. Noggerup Community Workshop – Tuesday 21st July 6:00 – 7:30pm

Surveys can be returned by post to the Shire or alternatively dropped off at Balingup Post Office, Balingup Library, Kirup Post Office, Lowden General Store and the Shire Offices.

Further Information

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