



SPECIAL COUNCIL

MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, 15 September 2009

TIME: 4.00pm

VENUE: Council Chambers

SPECIAL BUSINESS

To consider and adopt the Structural Reform Submission requested by the Minister for Local Government

Rob Stewart
Chief Executive Officer

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1 DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

4.00pm The Presiding Member declared the meeting open.

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES / LEAVE OF ABSENCE (PREVIOUSLY APPROVED)Members Present:

Cr K Forbes AM	Shire President - Rocky Gully/West Ward
Cr K Clements	Deputy Shire President -Town Ward
Cr A Budrikis	Kendenup Ward
Cr B Hollingworth	Town Ward
Cr S Grylls	Rocky Gully/West Ward
Cr J Mark	Town Ward
Cr J Moir	South Ward
Cr D Nye-Chart	East Ward
Cr M Skinner	East Ward

In Attendance:

Mr Rob Stewart	Chief Executive Officer
Mr John Fathers	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Mr Dominic Le Cerf	Manager Works and Services
Ms Nicole Selesnew	Manager Community Services
Mr Peter Duncan	Manager Development Services
Mrs Kaye Skinner	Executive Secretary

There were one member(s) of the public in attendance

3 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (RELATING TO SPECIAL BUSINESS ONLY)

Nil

4 PETITIONS / DEPUTATIONS / PRESENTATIONS (RELATING TO SPECIAL BUSINESS ONLY)

Nil

5 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND OFFICERS

5.1 EXECUTIVE SERVICES REPORT

5.1.1 STRUCTURAL REFORM - SUBMISSION

File No: N12699
Responsible Officer: Rob Stewart
Chief Executive Officer
Author: Rob Stewart
Chief Executive Officer
Proposed Meeting Date: 15 September 2009 (Special)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present to the Council for adoption the Structural Reform Submission required by the Minister for Local Government for adoption.

BACKGROUND

At the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 11 August 2009 the Council resolved:

'That in the opinion of the Shire of Plantagenet the best structural reform outcome for the Southern Link Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils is that the member Councils of Broomehill-Tambellup, Cranbrook, Kojonup and Plantagenet indicate their willingness to amalgamate and form one local government.'

This motion was in response to the Minister's requirement for all Councils in Western Australia to prepare reform submissions and forward those submissions to him by 30 September 2009 (which had been extended from 31 August 2009).

The Minister will provide each Council's reform submission to the Local Government Reform Steering Committee for assessment. The Steering Committee will then assess the submissions and seek further information if needed. The Steering Committee will then provide advice to the Minister on preferred options for reform so that finalised proposals can be referred to the Local Government Advisory Board for consideration and recommendation.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Part 8 (Scrutiny of the affairs of local governments) of the Local Government Act 1995 (Division 1 Inquiries by the Minister or an authorised person) gives the Minister far reaching powers '*...to inquire into all local governments and their operations and affairs,*' through the departmental CEO.

Councillors are referred specifically to Schedule 2.1 of the Local Government Act 1995 - provisions about creating, changing the boundaries of, and abolishing districts.

CONSULTATION

The Council has consulted widely regarding preparation of this report.

Consultation has included meetings with our VROC partners of Broomehill-Tambellup, Cranbrook and Kojonup. Consultation has also occurred with our immediate neighbours and more particularly, Denmark, Jerramungup and Gnowangerup. As the City of Albany is not affected by this proposal there has only been limited consultation with that Council.

Further the Council has organised several community meetings regarding structural reform and meetings have been held with members of parliament including the Minister for Local Government the Hon John Castrilli MLA.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications as a result of this report however the cost of amalgamation, should that eventuate, could be in the vicinity of \$2m to \$3m.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications for this report.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

The Council's Strategic Plan at Key Result Area 5 (Strategic Planning) notes that an aim of the Council, '...is to develop strategic partnerships, fostering regional cooperation and coordinate the long term planning for sustainable, environmental, economic and social development of the Shire and the Great Southern.'

OFFICER COMMENT

There is little need to repeat the words of the Structural Reform Submission except to note that the Shire of Plantagenet, classified as a Category One Council pursuant to the sustainability reform check list, could possibly have indicated to the Minister that the option of staying within our present boundaries was not only preferable but also sustainable in the long term.

However, the threat of reduced grant funding in the future would place an unbearable burden on the ratepayers of the Shire and therefore was not entertained at the Council's meeting on 11 August 2009.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION/COUNCIL DECISION

Moved Cr J Mark, seconded Cr B Hollingworth:

That the Reform Submission of the Shire of Plantagenet as tabled be adopted.

CARRIED 6/3

NO. 260/09

Request for Vote to be recorded

Pursuant to Section 5.21 (4) of the Local Government Act 1995 Councillors Budrikis, Grylls and Moir requested that their vote against the motion be recorded.

Councillor Moir also requested that the following words be recorded:

'Reasons for Voting against the motion

That the Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup and Kojonup would be better grouped with neighbouring Shires to their north because of community of interest'.

6 CLOSURE OF MEETING

4:22 pm The Presiding Member declared the meeting closed.

CONFIRMED: CHAIRPERSON _____ **DATE:** ____/____/____