



30 August 2013

Mayors, Shire Presidents, Councillors and Chief Executive Officers
of all Western Australian Local Government Authorities

Delivered by e-mail 2 September 2013

Dear Colleagues

Local Government Reform

The purpose of this correspondence is to request your support to publicly object to the State Government's plans to seek a number of amendments to the *Local Government Act 1995* as part of the reform program. This includes changes that would remove the poll provisions in relation to metropolitan local governments. The State Government has made it clear that amalgamation of metropolitan local governments will take place by July 2015. Their next agenda will be country amalgamations by July 2017 and it is possible that your organisation may be affected in some way in the future.

We are calling for transparency during the process, including maintaining the Dadour provisions which allows the community to have their say on how their local government is to develop over time and the opportunity to hold a referendum on whether or not amalgamation should take place.

At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Monday, 26 August 2013, a petition was presented to Council by the SJ for PEEL Committee containing 3100 signatures against amalgamation of the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale with the City of Armadale.

Also during the meeting, under Urgent Business, Council resolved to receive a new motion relating to Local Government Reform, as follows:

"1. Council reiterate its Council resolution OCM216/06/13:

- a) the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale does not support any major boundary adjustment change or merger with the City of Armadale or any other Local Government;*
- b) the Shire is of the view that both authorities will grow to an optimum size of population without a merger.*

2. The reasons for not supporting amalgamation are:

- a) the Shire achieved a Category 1 classification in the assessment the Department of Local Government undertook for overall sustainability of Local Governments within Western Australia;*

- b) *the Shire was identified as a leader in Strategic Planning by the Department of Local Government and the Minister for Local Government acknowledged this during the assessment process;*
 - c) *the Shire was one of the few Local Governments in Western Australia that approved all of the strategic documents the State Government required to be approved by 30 June 2013 and submitted to the Department of Local Government which make up the 'Integrated Planning Framework'.*
3. *In the event of the State Government determining the need for an amalgamation of the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale and the City of Armadale, that the Shire negotiate to receive the best possible outcome in relation to:*
 - a) *representation on the new Council that will protect the interests of the Serpentine Jarrahdale community for a minimum period of two terms;*
 - b) *the name of the new Local Authority reflect the communities of Serpentine Jarrahdale and Armadale;*
 - c) *the method of election of the Mayor;*
 - d) *location of the new Local Authority (Administrative Centre).*
 4. *The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to continue preliminary discussions with the Chief Executive Officer of the City of Armadale on the State Government's position on Local Government Reform.*
 5. *Council publicly oppose the Government's foreshadowed removal of the 'Dadour provisions' from Schedule 2.1 of the Local Government Act (1995). The removal of this clause silences the communities' say in how they want their Local Government to develop over time by not allowing the community to have the opportunity to hold a referendum on whether the Shire is to be amalgamated or not.*
 6. *Council write to all Local Governments in Western Australia seeking their support to publicly object to the removal of the Dadour provisions from Schedule 2.1 of the Local Government Act (1995) for the reasons specified above.*
 7. *Council write to all Members of Parliament seeking their support to vote against repealing of the poll provisions, the removal of which is a wholesaling silencing of the communities' voice, removing their right to have a say in the future or otherwise of their Council."*

It was also resolved as follows:

"That Council:

1. *Receive the petition from the SJ for PEEL Committee containing 3100 signatures against amalgamation of Serpentine Jarrahdale with the City of Armadale, as per Item 5.*
2. *Forward the petition to the Shadow Minister for Local Government, David Templeman MLA and request that the petition be presented to Parliament on behalf of the listed signatories."*

Both resolutions were carried unanimously by the Council of the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale.

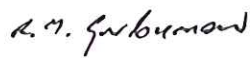
The petition will be presented to Parliament at the next sitting of the Legislative Assembly on 10 September 2013 and is available on the Shire's website for your information ... www.sjshire.wa.gov.au/assets/Uploads/OCM/Minutes-OCM-26-August-2013.pdf

We urge you to show your support by lobbying your Local Members of Parliament to vote against repealing of the poll provisions.

Your support would be very much appreciated by the community of the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale and other local government authorities who are currently going through the Local Government Reform process.

In the meantime should you have any further queries in relation to this matter please do not hesitate to contact this office on 9526 1111.

Yours sincerely



Richard Gorbunow
Chief Executive Officer