

Better Local Government Communiqué

9 February 2010

Ascot Racecourse

In the pursuit of Better Local Government and after considering the information provided by the Minister for Local Government, the Hon John Castrilli in response to our questions regarding the State Government's Local Government Reform process, we the Local Government representatives in attendance at this meeting have determined that we:

1. Support the State Council resolution of February 5 which asserts that:
 - the Association continue to seek clarification on the State Government's position and process;
 - the Association express no confidence in the current reform process;
 - those Local Governments, wishing to amalgamate, be allowed to proceed with their process;
 - those Local Governments, not wishing to amalgamate, be allowed to pursue their own direction without the threat of forced amalgamation or referral to the Local Government Advisory Board (LGAB).
2. Reject a Local Government Reform Process that focuses only on amalgamations.
3. Require a voluntary approach to any amalgamations and reinforce the rights of each Local Government to determine their own destiny.
4. Reaffirm the research and recommendations of the Systemic Sustainability Study.
5. Require guidelines outlining the State Government's Local Government reform goals and objectives prior to the pursuit of any further reform process.
6. Require the delivery of a complete legislative and regulatory reform package as detailed in the Systemic Sustainability Study, as a priority and prior to the pursuit of any structural change.
7. Require the Minister to give a commitment to include WALGA (representing all of Western Australia's Local Governments) at the most senior levels on all relevant reform committees in a genuine partnership approach.
8. Reject the financial emasculation of Local Governments which do not engage in amalgamations.
9. Require the State Government to fully fund any reforms it applies to the sector.