

W.A Local Government Structural Reform

“Shire of Cuballing Amalgamation”

Dear Community Members,

The Shire of Cuballing is convening a special community meeting on **Thursday 3 September 2009 commencing 7.30pm at the Cuballing Agriculture Hall.**

All local governments in Western Australia have been invited by the State Government Minister for Local Government, the Hon. John Castrilli MLA to voluntarily amalgamate with neighbouring Councils.

Council must make a submission to the State Government by the 30 September 2009 advising of Councils intentions with respect to Minister Castrilli’s request.

Council at its August 2009 meeting resolved that a community meeting be held in order to assist it in determining the content and position of its submission to the State Government.

During Local Government Week 6-8 August 2009, the Premier Hon. Colin Barnett MLA, Minister for Regional Development, Hon. Brendon Grylls MLA and Minister Castrilli, made their positions abundantly clear. Each indicated that amalgamations are necessary and will progress. Although each said that forced amalgamations would not occur, it was also clearly communicated that those Councils choosing to take no action on amalgamations would risk losing future funding. The politicians specifically referred to councils with smaller populations being most at risk.

The Premier has indicated he wants significantly less than 100 Councils in W.A and has indicated the government expects significant progress with a view to reducing the number of Councils from 139 on a voluntary basis.

Minister Castrilli has guaranteed the process of local government reform will be voluntary up to 31 December 2009. There are no guarantees as to what the W.A Governments position will be post 31 December 2009 should Councils fail to take up Minister Castrilli’s invitation.

Should your Council be proactive and amalgamate with neighbouring Councils whilst it has an opportunity to do so in a cooperative fashion or should Council refute the clear agenda of the W A State Government in wishing to reform local government in W A as we know it today?

For further information please contact me on 9888 4022, the Shire Chief Executive Officer, Mr Peter Naylor, on 9883 6031, email enquiries@cuballing.wa.gov.au., or visit Councils website www.cuballing.wa.gov.au.

The meeting commences at 7.30pm, please come along and have your say in the future of the Shire of Cuballing.

Councillor T H Wittwer – Shire President