

Securing Our Future...

United we can control our destiny.

Since 2010 the State Government of Western Australia has started the process of amalgamating local councils. Across the state Local Governments have been encouraged to create and deliver suitable outcomes based on sound studies and research without interference or government controls.

The Shires of Cunderdin, Quairading, Tammin and York, have undertaken the most comprehensive assessment of the implications of amalgamation in the history of local government in Western Australia.

The subsequent Business and Service Delivery Plan totalling 1545 pages of information and analysis provides fully researched and quantified data on what can be achieved on behalf of their communities now and into the future.

Whilst the rest of Australia has undertaken massive local government reform over the past 15 years, Western Australia has been the exception. Sustainability Reports into local governments here provide empirical evidence that small local governments have little scope for long-term viability.

Moreover federal grants are being targeted at higher populations in order to obtain a wider spread of value for money. Small local councils will miss out on these grants because they do not meet the funding criteria.



The objectives of this amalgamation process are to ensure the respective communities are positioned for viable service delivery in the future, ongoing financial capacity and the retention of local identity.

The Business and Service Delivery Plan determines what currently exists, what is needed for the future and how to achieve it. The Shires of Cunderdin, Quairading, Tammin and York have expressed overwhelming support for the inquiry process.



Before a final decision is made by the Local Government Advisory Board in a recommendation to the Minister for Local Government local communities can assess the opportunities and constraints of a merger and have their say at public hearings or through written submissions.

Amalgamation WILL DELIVER:

- Improved service delivery and standards by better use of resources.
- Improved community involvement in local decision-making.
- No existing council will have a majority.
- The capacity to invest in the professional development of staff and the ability to attract specialist expertise.
- Increased buying power that will drive better value for money.
- The most appropriate local laws.
- A consolidated Town Planning Scheme that will protect the heritage of each town and provide opportunities for growth and development.
- A regional organisation with enough resources to engage in significant projects that will attract quality staff and provide ongoing career opportunities.
- Council meetings rotated monthly in each town to encourage community input.
- A ward system for up to 8 years based on existing shire boundaries.
- Implementation costs funded by the State Government, not the ratepayer.

Amalgamation WILL NOT AFFECT:

- Town names, building identity and names of geographical features.
- Local number plates.
- Local sports teams and community

organizations will retain their identities and names.

- All existing services such as libraries, licensing etc will remain in place.
- Workforces and administration will remain in each town. Plus a Place Manager will be based in each town.
- Recurrent grants such as road grants.
- Reserve funds held by individual shires will be used only in those areas.
- Existing contracts will be carried forward to a new local government and continue to operate.
- Federal Financial Assistance Funding will remain at the existing combined levels for a minimum of 5 years after amalgamation.

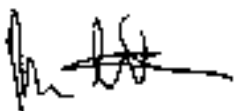
The Business and Service Delivery Plan demonstrates that uniting the four local councils will deliver better local government, better services and more opportunities for the local communities in the long term.

Responsible government requires planning for the future. A well-resourced local government can achieve this.

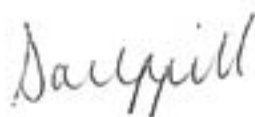
The State Government has unequivocally stated that the local government sector must undergo structural reform and the number of local governments is to be reduced. Already amalgamation is underway in the Perth Metro area and by 2015 like it or not rural shires will go through the same process.

Doing nothing is not an option. By adopting this proposal to unite the Councils of Cunderdin, Quairading, Tammin and York the people of these communities can look forward to a viable and well-resourced local government that can meet the complex demands of the 21st century.

Shire Presidents



Shire of Cunderdin
Cr Rod Carter



Shire of Tammin
Cr Scott Uppil



Shire of Quairading
Cr Darryl Richards



Shire of York
Cr Tony Boyle