



SHIRE OF NAREMBEEN

ABN 48 322 867 806

1 LONGHURST STREET, NAREMBEEN, W.A. 6369

OUR REF.

TELEPHONE (08) 9064 7308, (08) 9064 7367

FACSIMILE (08) 9064 7037

YOUR REF.

WEB www.narembeen.wa.gov.au

Ms Hannah Gough
Committee Clerk
Standing Committee on Legislation Committee
Legislative Council
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000



By Email Transmission hgough@parliament.wa.gov.au

Dear Ms Gough

Re: **INQUIRY INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AMENDMENT (REGIONAL SUBSIDIARIES) BILL 2010 (BILL) – SHIRE OF NAREMBEEN**

Council at their Ordinary Meeting held on 20th July 2011 wish to provide comment to the Inquiry into the Local Government Amendment (Regional Subsidiaries) Bill 2010.

The Shire of Narembeen fully supports the intent of the Local Government Amendment (Regional Subsidiaries) Bill 2010 as it will provide legislation that will enable local governments to carry out a range of services and functions that are simply not available under current legislation.

The only alternatives Local Government has at present that enables two or more local governments to join together to provide a service or function is to:

- Form a Regional Council under Division 4 of the Local Government Act 1995. While this option is fine for two or more Councils to provide services the problem with this option is that the Regional Council so formed must comply with all the requirements of the Local Government Act 1995 in relation to compliance and reporting requirements, including auditing, books of account and the like. Once again this is fine if the participating councils are involved in a major function that is economically driven however for rural local governments who may wish to provide something as simple as shared staff it is obviously not feasible to use this option due to the extra financial burden imposed to enable them to comply with the present Act.
- The only way two or more small rural Councils can provide what the Regional Subsidiaries Bill is trying to do is to have one of the participating councils act as the administrator. Generally this works but unfortunately this arrangement does not offer sufficient legal protection for the parties involved and if something does go wrong then one Council may be held liable for the responsibilities of the participating councils.

With the Minister for Local Government recently announcing that the government has “given up” on local government reform and the poor way the whole process has been handled the Local Government Amendment (Regional Subsidiaries) Bill 2010 offers a genuine model that has been successful in South Australia and with the rural areas having distinct similarities here in WA it is a very positive approach to providing Local Government with a tool for increased efficiency.



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Local Government continues to explore genuine efficiencies and savings that can be delivered on the ground as it continually strives to improve servicing standards to the Community in the best interest of its Community.

Thank you for your kind consideration and support to Councils request.

Yours sincerely

Frank Peczka
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

21st July 2011