

An update for residents on the Minister's new proposal for reform in the Metropolitan Area, and an opportunity for you to have your say.

Local Government Reform

Residents of the Town may be aware from comments in the press that the Minister for Local Government has recently announced a new agenda for Local Government Reform in the metropolitan area of Perth, to replace the failed reform process put in place in 2009.

The Town is committed to keeping its residents informed at all stages of the new process, and wants to provide every opportunity for you to provide feedback to your Council on the options that might be available to the Town as this reform process unfolds. The Town will continue to provide further updates in this format as time passes.

It is important for residents to note that, as a result of the Minister's announcement, the recent proposal by the City of Bayswater to seek a boundary adjustment to take in all of the Town of Bassendean is now not being considered. The Minister confirmed this in response to a question by the Mayor at the Minister's public announcement on the new Reform Agenda on the 24 June 2011.

So what is the new Reform Process?

The following is a copy of the Minister's announcement made on 24 June 2011:

“

Friday 24 June 2011

Landmark Review of Local Government Boundaries in Perth

Local Government Minister John Castrilli today announced the appointment of a high level independent panel to examine the social, economic and environmental challenges facing Perth.

The panel will be responsible for recommending appropriate boundaries and governance models for local governments in the Perth metropolitan area.

The eminent panel will be chaired by Professor Alan Robson, vice chancellor of The University of Western Australia. Other members are Dr Peter Tannock, former vice chancellor of the University of Notre Dame Australia and Dr Sue van Leeuwen, chief executive officer of Leadership WA.

Mr Castrilli said the panel offered a vast amount of knowledge, experience and expertise as leaders in academic and business circles in Western Australia.

"I am delighted they have agreed to assist the State in this momentous review," he said.

"For the first time we will consider the future and identify the challenges and opportunities."

The review's terms of reference are to:

- Identify current and anticipated specific regional, social, environmental and economic issues affecting, or likely to affect, the growth of metropolitan Perth in the next 50 years;



from the mayor

In this special edition of the *Bassendean Briefings* you will find an overview of the recent history of local government reform in Western Australia and an outline of the current local government reform process.

The Town of Bassendean Council is dedicated to engaging in strong community consultation and, with the future of local government so uncertain, it is paramount that the Council is informed of the community's views and opinions.

The Council is seeking your feedback on where you see the Town of Bassendean in the coming years. There is a form on the back of this newsletter for you to fill out and return to the Town of Bassendean Council.

It is very important that you take the time to read the information provided in this newsletter and return the form on the back by Friday, 23 September with your preferred option for the future of the Town of Bassendean.

Responses from our community will be presented to the Local Government Reform Panel when they meet with the Town of Bassendean Reform Steering Committee.

Your response will also shape the future direction for the Town of Bassendean.

Thank you for your support.

Kind regards,

Cr John Gangell

Mayor, Town of Bassendean



continued from previous page...

- Identify current and anticipated national and international factors likely to impact in the next 50 years;
- Research improved local government structures, and governance models and structures for the Perth metropolitan area, drawing on national and international experience and examining key issues relating to community representation, engagement, accountability and State imperatives among other things the panel may identify during the course of the review;
- Identify new local government boundaries and a resultant reduction in the overall number of local governments to better meet the needs of the community;
- Prepare options to establish the most effective local government structures and governance models that take into account matters identified through the review including, but not limited to, community engagement, patterns of demographic change, regional and State growth and international factors which are likely to impact; and
- Present a limited list of achievable options together with a recommendation on the preferred option.

The Minister said it would be the panel's objective to submit recommendations to him by June 2012 on optimal local government structures or governance, resulting in the drawing of new local government boundaries.

The panel would directly engage with the Perth community, local governments, peak bodies, and government agencies and departments.

Two advisory groups would provide expert advice to the panel. One would consist of the directors general of the departments of Local Government and Planning.

The president and vice-president of the Western Australian Local Government Association would also be invited to advise the panel."



So what does this mean?

It is clear from the Minister's announcement that one outcome required will be fewer local governments in the metropolitan area, and that current boundaries can be ignored by the panel.

The Minister has committed to the panel consulting with local governments, and the community, although the manner and the timing of these consultations are not yet known. The Council will, however, request the Panel to attend a community meeting in the Town as part of its wider consultation.

Residents will be aware that in the 2009 process, which sought voluntary amalgamations of local governments, the community of Bassendean advised its Council that it wished to stay as it is, but explore boundary reform in consultation with its neighbours. You will be aware that the process became stalled with very few local governments agreeing to amalgamate voluntarily.

It is a concern to the Town that the required reduction in numbers of local governments in the metropolitan area (as requested by the Minister) could lead to a

significant loss of identity if the Town should become just three suburbs in a very large local government. Whilst this may be an outcome which is forced upon us, the Council will continue to seek guarantees of the preservation of local institutions, celebrations and events, and local service provision to ensure that this Town, with its long history, is clearly identified as a community of interest—whatever the outcome of the process.

In the past, amalgamations meant the merging of two neighbouring local governments whilst retaining the external boundaries with other surrounding local governments. The Minister's proposal allows the panel to ignore those matters and redraw the boundaries for local government, potentially using major man-made and natural boundaries as the borders of the redrawn local government structure within the metropolitan area.

The Premier, who was present at the Minister's announcement, suggested there may be a reduction to 10 to 15 local governments, but would not rule out there being even less than that. Conceivably, all of the resultant local governments could have populations of more than 100,000. This is even more reason to attempt to preserve local identity for historic places such as Bassendean.

Where to from here?

As mentioned before, we will continue to provide updates as the process unfolds, and seek every opportunity for the community to have its say —to the Council, and to the Panel appointed by the Minister.

Attached to this bulletin is a tear-off sheet to provide feedback to the Council on your thoughts, and these will provide a snapshot of community responses to the reform process which can be passed on to the panel, and inform your Council as to the direction you would wish it to take.

Alternatively, you can email your responses and choices to the email address provided, or contact your local Councillors. Their contact details have also been provided below.

Council for 2009–2011

The composition of the present Council is:

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------|------------|
| Cr John Gangell | Mayor, East Ward | Cr Don Yates | East Ward |
| Cr Gerry Pule | Deputy Mayor, West Ward | Cr Kara Collins | North Ward |
| Cr Anne Brinkworth | West Ward | Cr Mike Lewis | North Ward |
| Cr Lynda Butler | West Ward | Cr Heinrich Benz | North Ward |



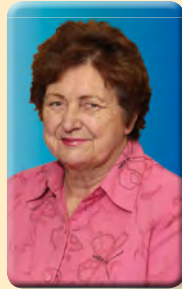
Cr. Heinrich Benz
North Ward
0400 047 349



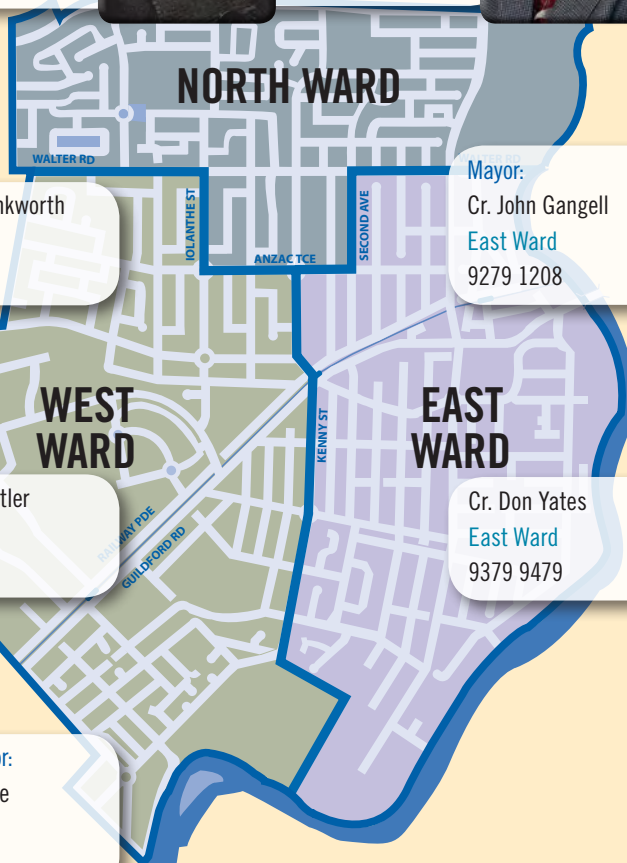
Cr. Kara Collins
North Ward
9279 9895



Cr. Mike Lewis
North Ward
9367 8213



Cr. Anne Brinkworth
West Ward
9279 3211



Mayor:
Cr. John Gangell
East Ward
9279 1208



Cr. Lynda Butler
West Ward
6278 1124

EAST WARD

Cr. Don Yates
East Ward
9379 9479



Deputy Mayor:
Cr. Gerry Pule
West Ward
9279 7620

WEST WARD

Local Government Reform Resident Feedback Form

1. Please tick **one** of the following options to provide your Council with an indication of your early response, **OR go to 2 below** and provide any comments, suggestions or alternatives you may wish.

- (a) The Town should insist that it wishes to remain an independent local government and does not wish to amalgamate with any other local authority.
- (b) The Town should look at amalgamations with neighbouring Councils now, and seek guarantees of local service delivery, the maintenance of local institutions, celebrations, and a level of local decision-making/place-making to ensure that Bassendean's identity and history is preserved.

2.
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

**Please tear-off this sheet and either post it to the Town at: PO Box 87, Bassendean, WA, 6934
or drop it off at the Library or the Customer Service Centre in Old Perth Road.
You can also provide you feedback by email to mail@bassendean.wa.gov.au.
Please provide your feedback by Friday 23 September 2011.**

**The previous page has the contact details for your Councillors, and you may wish to contact them to discuss the process or provide feedback to your Elected Members.
This will not be the only opportunity you will have to provide feedback.
Further bulletins will also include feedback options.**

www.bassendean.wa.gov.au
9377 8000
mail@bassendean.wa.gov.au