



Shire of Victoria Plains

Minutes of a Special Meeting of Council held

On	Wednesday 12 th August 2009
At	Council Chambers, Calingiri
Commencing	4.03pm

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1 DECLARATION OF OPENING

The Presiding Member declared the meeting open at 4.03pm.

2 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

President: Cr G Erickson South Ward

Councillors:

Cr N Smith	East Ward
Cr D Holmes	South Ward
Cr M Anspach	West Ward
Cr D Lovelock	West Ward
Cr J Kelly	West Ward
Cr J Brennan	Central Ward
Cr S Young	Central Ward

Apologies: Cr B Johnson East Ward

Chief Executive Officer: Mr H Hawkins

Finance and Administration Manager: Mr N Hamilton

3 BUSINESS TO BE DISCUSSED

3.1 STRUCTURAL REFORM CHANGES SINCE LOCAL GOVERNMENT WEEK

1. Brendon Grylls on 7th August 2009 reiterated that the Nationals do not support forced amalgamations however they do support reform. Mr Grylls also suggested that Councils amalgamate or form regional councils for the purpose of decision making, financial support and delivery of projects, particularly those funded through Royalties for Regions.
2. The Premier Colin Barnett on 8th August again stated that the Liberal Party did not support forced amalgamations however 139 Local Governments in WA is unsustainable. He repeated the information on the number of councils in WA that have less than 1,000 people and said that he expected the number of councils in WA to be reduced to less than 100 and perhaps significantly less.
3. The Shires of Chittering and Goomalling indicated a willingness to form an alliance with Victoria Plains with a view to merging in maybe 4 -5 years. Toodyay favoured amalgamating now and not working towards it over 4 - 5 years and were left on their own as a result of that stance.

The President and other councillors gave a run down of the meeting held during Local Government week.

Discussion ensued on the various options put forward and what the benefits to the community were.

Some members of council suggested that we should fight to stay on our own.

After further discussion a vote was taken on whether we should fight to stay alone and this was defeated 6/2.

Discussions continued on an alliance and which neighbouring shires we should align with.

It was agreed that contact should be made President to President with our neighbours to determine which of them want to meet with us to discuss forming an alliance.

4 DECLARATION OF CLOSURE

There being no further business the Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at 6.12pm.

Signed this 20th day of October 2009

Presiding Member