

TOWN OF BASSENDEAN

MINUTES

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

TO CONSIDER THE TOWN OF BASSENDEAN'S POSITION ON LOCAL
GOVERNMENT REFORM GIVEN THE OUTCOMES OF THE REFORM POLLS
COMPLETED ON SATURDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2015.

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 48 OLD PERTH ROAD, BASSENDEAN

ON TUESDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2015 AT 6.00PM

1.0 **DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS**

His Worship the Mayor declared the meeting open, welcomed all those in attendance and acknowledged the Wadjuk People of the Nyoongar Nation.

2.0 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND ADDRESS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Nil.

3.0 **ATTENDANCES, APOLOGIES & APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Present

Councillors

His Worship the Mayor, Cr John Gangell
Cr Mike Lewis, Deputy Mayor
Cr Anne Brinkworth
Cr Gerry Pule
Cr Jennie Carter
Cr Paul Bridges

Officers

Mr Bob Jarvis, Chief Executive Officer
Mr Graeme Haggart, Director Community Development
Mr Simon Stewart-Dawkins, Director Operational Services

Apologies

Mr Michael Costarella, Director Corporate Services

Public

No members of the public were in attendance.

Press

One member of the press was in attendance.

4.0 **REPORTS**

4.1 **Consideration of the Town of Bassendean's position on Local Government Reform given the outcomes of the Reform Polls completed on Saturday 7 February 2015**

BACKGROUND

The current Local Government Reform process was predicated on the number of local governments in the metropolitan area being reduced from 30 to 15. As a result of the polls concluded on 7 February 2015, this process is now in disarray and if the Councils undergoing major boundary reform continued on, it is likely to deliver a reduction in Councils to approximately 25.

By all measures, this is not the reform that was intended, as the 5 smallest Councils in the metropolitan area are likely to remain, and yet substantially larger local governments would be forced to merge without their community being given the opportunity to vote on the proposal.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

Section 9.65 of the Local Government Act 1995 (Part 2) gives power given by this Act to the Governor or the Minister to make an order includes power from time to time -

- (a) to revoke or cancel the order wholly or in part, with or without substituting another order; and
- (b) To otherwise vary the order.

COMMENT

The WA Local Government Association has already withdrawn its support to the Metropolitan Reform Process and has called on the Government to completely abandon the current process, including major boundary changes.

It is understood that the Shire of Mundaring, and very likely other local governments in similar circumstances to Bassendean, will meet to resolve that the State Government repeals the Governor's Orders and stops the reform process.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION – ITEM 4.1

That:

1. Council resolves that the Premier be advised that the Town of Bassendean is opposed to being taken over by the City of Bayswater in a reform process, where some Councils' communities have been given the opportunity to vote and others have not; and further;
2. Given the fundamental failure of the reform process as a result of the polls concluded on 7 February 2015, the Town of Bassendean advises the Premier that it is opposed to a boundary adjustment continuing, without its community having an opportunity to similarly express their views on the proposal, and calls upon the State Government to repeal the Governor's Orders issued in December 2014 - Local Government (Bassendean and Bayswater – Abolition and Change of Boundaries) **2014**, abolishing the Town of Bassendean and changing the boundaries of the City of Bayswater to include the area of the abolished Town of Bassendean;
3. Further, the repeal come into effect as soon as possible, so that affected local governments can get on with the job of preparing their budgets for the 2015/16 financial year, and continue to deliver good governance for their districts; and
4. The Town of Bassendean will no longer participate in any reform processes, including attending Local Implementation Committee meetings, until this matter is resolved.

Minor changes were made to the Officer Recommendation to concentrate on the Town of Bassendean's circumstance, and are shown in the Council Resolution below.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION – ITEM 4.1

SCM2-1/2/15

MOVED Cr Gangell, Seconded Cr Carter, that:

1. Council resolves that the Premier be advised that given the fundamental failure of the reform process as a result of the polls concluded on 7 February 2015, that the Town of Bassendean is opposed to a boundary adjustment continuing, without its community having an opportunity to similarly express their views on the proposal, and calls upon the State Government to repeal the Governor's Orders issued in December 2014 – Local Government (Bassendean and Bayswater – Abolition and Change of Boundaries), abolishing the Town of Bassendean and changing the boundaries of the City of Bayswater to include the area of the abolished Town of Bassendean;
2. The repeal come into effect as soon as possible, so that affected local governments can get on with the job of preparing their budgets for the 2015/16 financial year, and continue to deliver good governance for their districts;
3. The Town of Bassendean will no longer participate in the reform process, including attending Local Implementation Committee meetings; and
4. The City of Bayswater be advised of the Council Resolution from this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 6/0

5.0 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Mayor closed the meeting at 6.15pm.