

# TOWN OF BASSENDEAN

## NOTICE OF A SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Dear Council Member

A Special Meeting of the Council will be held on Tuesday, 10 February 2015, in the Council Chamber, 48 Old Perth Road, Bassendean, at 6.00pm 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.

Mr Bob Jarvis  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

10 February 2015

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## A G E N D A

### 1.0 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

#### Acknowledgement of Country

The Town of Bassendean acknowledges the Wadjuk People of the Nyoongar Nation as the traditional owners of the land on which we gather to conduct this meeting, and pays its respects to their Elders, both past and present.

### 2.0 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME/ADDRESS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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

## **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 6.95 of the Local Government Act 1995 (Part 2) gives power to the Governor or Minister which includes power from time to time:

- (a) To revoke or cancel the Orders wholly 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The WA Local Government Association has already withdrawn its support to the Metropolitan Reform Process and has called on the Government to completely abandon the current process, including major boundary changes.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 [Bassenden 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.

**Voting requirement: Absolute majority**

**5.0 CLOSURE**