Submission to the Local Government Act Review.

Currently many rural Local Governments have seriously declining populations . These Local Governments have a strong reliance on Government funding and rates. The ratepayers are small in number and are understandably resisting the continual increase in their rates.

In essence for Local Governments to continue to deliver the services required they will need to consider alternative structures.

It would be good to see enabling legislation in the new Act that allows for partnerships like the Town of Victoria Park and the Shire of Morawa . These partnerships could be expanded to large hub and spoke structures, with a large metropolitan Council having 3-4 rural Councils under its jurisdiction.

Alternatively another model could be a Regional Council , perhaps 4-5 amalgamated Councils , as the umbrella Local Government and each of the amalgamated Councils forming a Community Council or Advisory Group that keeps the identity and feeds the needs of those communities up to the umbrella Local Government.

Please consider introducing legislation that will enable Local Governments to become more sustainable and encourage more partnerships or alternate structures.

Karen Chappel

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