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WA Local Government Act Review Phase 2.
File 3.

Local Governments use too many external consultants each year on Reports.

Solution: New Larger metro local governments with better specialist teams to do some of those Reports in-house.

Include recordings of Ordinary Council Meetings online. Believe *Ordinary Council Meetings* be video and audio recorded, placed online.
Leave *Draft Briefings/Agenda Briefings* as not recorded so Council Members not afraid to talk widely on the items.

Regional Subsidiaries.

The State Government strongly supports local governments working collaboratively, and an effective subsidiary model. I worry this could be at the expense of *Local government reform* to deliver less metro local governments.

I am worried regional subsidiaries are a vehicle for under-performing metro local governments to hide under.

I have seen and heard LGAs say the same things as other did two decades ago. Build more suburbs, increased population, then wealthy local government. Result: spare land all built on, no wealth. In the 2000s we have seen 'outer suburban' metro local governments merely repeating what 'middle suburban' local governments were all doing before. Some mistakes have been learned from, and improved efforts result. Yet in regards to other matters the same mistakes keep occurring.

New local governments/new boundaries.

Then you can "empower them" and give them "autonomy". Wider boundary local governments are smarter, efficient, modern, enabled, more inclusive.
33 is small factional groupings.

The false problem of 'identity being lost'. Solution: A Legacy System where 'histories', 'efforts', 'personal efforts', are recognised through new local government entities. Where metro citizens are assured 'the counter has not reset'.

Fact: *Federal Governments and WA State Governments* affect suburbs far more than *Local Government Authorities*. Keating, Howard, Rudd, Gillard have truly changed the balance & shape of most suburbs. State Governments of Burke, Richard Court, Gallop, Carpenter, recent Barnett-Grylls have influenced Perth metro suburbs and many local governments far more (generally) speaking than any Local Government.

The Legacy System I have suggested can include the recent decade of website material, plus reserving a corner of the room for the team(ex-local government) flag, and team song. If that is what it takes to keep the protesters happy then I am sure that (10 or 12)new Perth metro Entities can accommodate this.

Perth metro needs a fair, equitable allocation and distribution of aquatic centres across the metro area. Some had one, others had two. Already the 2000s has seen some to two, plus the overdue replacements of aging sites.

Rates Exemptions.

Not-for-profits should not be exempt from rates, and fees/charges. Some should, some not. They should have to apply to the individual local government for any reduction, or any exemption.

Factional Councils.

Some LGAs no problems. Yet others are a real war between feuding voting blocks. This is awful! It compromises nearly every item on the Agenda. Plus allows some 'dumb' Councillors to wave through items BECAUSE their voting buddy said so. In recent times, Perth metro has seen major political party intervention increasing this problem. Something has to be done, BECAUSE Labor/Liberal/Greens policies do not belong in this arena, and their voting alignments do not help Ordinary Council Meetings.

Some metro local governments are too fearful to say anything that differs from a State Government or State Opposition Party. They are so worried they might offend the Party who might be in power two years down the line. That's how bad Party politics are hurting open discussion of projects and priorities across the metro area. Individual councilors make decisions on where they perceive *the State or Federal Seat boundaries* area. They won't extend to other suburbs BECAUSE they are eyeing off future political (*State/Federal political*) tilts.

Undue influence of State/Federal MPs on a local government area.

It has gotten so bad in some regions.

Thankyou.

Steve Walker.