

**Steve Walker**

**WA Local Government Act Review Phase 2.**

File 4. For 2019 March Phase Two.

**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.

**Local Governments need to be held to account by the State Agency.**

Example, a hyped (from the CEO) Community Infrastructure Plan.

It is put out to draft comment. Public gives comment.

Yet from June 2018 onwards no sign of a 'draft Plan' put to Council.

It is as if the CEO has buried the large public comment item due to the level of involvement and large efforts by public (groups, sporting groups, others).

Yet recently a suspect Recreation Plan has emerged with 'behind closed doors' one on one meetings. It looks an effort to 'shut out' certain groups, individuals from the 'consultation'. Is not public consultation suppose to be 'genuine', 'fair', and transparent?

**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.

**The Pattern of Perth metro local governments across the decades.**

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’.

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.

**More on the madness of 33 Perth metro local governments,** and the problems all those odd shapes create:

A road tunnel was always to be the solution to Fremantle’s vehicle realities.

This was widely supported by many local governments.

Yet when the idea was serious floated, one local government was against it, so the project stalled. Yet a Tunnel is the solution to this regional road network.

Two local governments (small City of Fremantle, Town of East Fremantle) think they are the ultimate decision-makers on whether Stirling Traffic Bridge gets upgraded. Yet that bridge is part of the ‘regional road network’ and has importance to the entire Perth metro area.

Why no new pedestrian bridge ever built over Swan River between City of Belmont and City of Bayswater? Very close in distance yet no cooperation ever occurs. Result, Maylands, Garvey Park, Rivervale, disconnection exits.

Why no road upgrade at Sevenoaks Road East, because of a local government boundary line. Despite the dangers of that vicinity to the regional area.

Why the ignorance of a concrete carriageway bridge for busy regional Nicholson Road river crossing? Due to the local government boundary line.

Why a myriad of small ‘western suburbs’ metro local governments don’t cooperate on regional road obligations (to Perth metro)?

The ‘tribalism’ factor is not helpful.

Lack of cooperation, (competing)priorities on mobile phone tower locations.

As the *Robson Review* into metropolitan local governments (2012) stated, the revenue bases are unfair, and many of those differences are going to get worse!

It is too difficult to rely on *State Governments*(State funds) and *Federal Governments* (Federal monies) to ‘balance it out’ each year when the *Australian party political landscape* is always about publicity, and ‘electoral seat’ (\$ spend) announcements. Hence the unfairness, and imbalance, across metropolitan Perth continues.

**The remuneration** (introduced in 2014/2015).

Needs to be reduced.

Few mayors deserve \$135 500 per annum. Yet too many get this high annual payment.

**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.

**Thankyou for including these paragraphs into the comment.**

Steve Walker.