

21 May 2010

The Hon. GM (John) Castrilli, MLA
Minister for Local Government
12th Floor, Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Minister

Local Government Structural Reform – Metropolitan Governance

Thank you for taking the time to meet with the Hon. Peter Salmon, QC to discuss the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Auckland's governance during his recent visit to Perth.

As a think-tank focused on Perth's future, the Committee for Perth is strongly of the view that the metropolitan region needs a governance structure that is specific to its role as the centre of commerce, knowledge and population in Western Australia. Our submission of 30 September 2009 detailed a number of options such as the City of Brisbane, the Greater London Authority and the 'super city' model which will be implemented in Auckland later this year. Our research has now been finalised and I attach FACTBase Bulletin 6 *Successful Local & Metropolitan Government Models Elsewhere: Potential Lessons for Perth?*

During his visit, Peter met with a diverse range of stakeholders including our members, the President and CEO of the WA Local Government Association, the Director General of the Department of Planning, the Chairman of the Western Australian Planning Commission and the Mayors and/or CEOs of a number of metropolitan local government authorities. Overwhelmingly the feedback was that a governance structure for the entire metropolitan area was critical to the discussion about local government reform and a separate issue to that of amalgamation.

The Royal Commission in Auckland had a very broad terms of reference based on the premise that *'... over the next 100 years, the Auckland region will face enormous change brought about by global economic, environmental, and political forces. Local trends, including high population growth, add to the challenges and opportunities for the region. Auckland has to compete in a global market place to sell its goods and services and to attract the talented people it requires to secure a sustainable and prosperous future.'*

In order to face those challenges *'Auckland requires local and regional governance equal to the best in the world and capable of working effectively with central government to ensure Auckland is a successful, sustainable city in the Asia Pacific region and is recognised as such.'*

The challenges for Auckland will be met head on through a contemporary governance structure that has been specifically developed to suit the region's need taking the best examples from other

jurisdictions. I urge you to consider the benefit of undertaking an independent review into what governance structure will best suit Perth to cope with the pressures arising from a growing population which government is planning for at 3.5 million people by mid century whilst at the same time improving our global competitiveness as a mid-tier city.

As a first step, Peter has asked me to extend an offer to you to undertake a review of the objectives of the reform agenda and existing legislation to provide insights about options for Perth based on his professional expertise as both a Barrister and High Court Judge in local government, environment and planning law and regulation along with his knowledge gained from the extensive research into other governance models that was undertaken for the Royal Commission.

I look forward to discussing how best to reform local government at the metropolitan region.

Yours sincerely

Marion Fulker
CEO

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