

SHIRE NOTES



Amalgamations Debate

The Minister for Local Government and Regional Development gave local governments until the 31 August 2009 to advise him of their amalgamation intentions – with the statement *If you don't want to do it, I'll do it*. This deadline has now been extended to 30 September 2009.

Council has now adopted a position to amalgamate, by agreement, with the Shires of Cunderdin and Quairading. The position is subject to a number of conditions which would protect Tammin's representation and financial interests. These include:

- Costs directly attributable to amalgamation should be paid by the State Government. This includes any new facilities required and the adjustment and revision of existing infrastructure and service settings e.g. offices, depots, information and communication technology, financial management systems, town planning schemes and local by laws.
- Creation of 3 Wards based on the existing boundaries of the 3 Shires with three elected Councillors from each of the three Wards.
- The use of specified area rating, over and above the general rate, to recover specific costs from each Ward.
- Repayment of all outstanding loans by the respective Ward through a specified area rate.
- Payment by the whole of life costs of major capital items of benefit to a localised community to be funded by a specified area rate.
- Retention of the existing depots, staff levels and plant/machinery as service depots for each ward.
- An assessment of the condition of the existing roads network should be undertaken as soon as possible following amalgamation to permit the striking of uniform standards early in the life of the amalgamated body.
- Quarantining existing grant funding including the Local Government Grants Commission; *Royalties to Regions* allocations; Roads to Recovery Programme; and, Regional Road Group(s) to the respective ward for the transition period (4 years).
- Retention of existing commitments to Community and Sporting Groups.
- Retention of existing community Assets such as oval, halls, depot, library, Kadjininy Kep, Tamma Village and cemetery.
- Retention of Front Office Facilities.
- Access to Senior Staff.

The Submission will be forwarded and an announcement of the outcome of everyone's submissions is expected from the Minister prior to Christmas.

Entertainment

To a very poor but enthusiastic crowd, the Northam Band *Aurora* performed in the Town Hall (inclement weather moved the venue from Kadjininy Kep) on 12 September.

Royalties For Regions Funding

Progress is being made with the various projects proposed from the first year's funding from the State Government. These include:

- Town Hall Kitchen reconstruction – plans are currently being drawn up.
- Lesser Hall refurbishment – work will be done in conjunction with the Kitchen.
- Donnan Park – changerooms have been repaired and repainted and the concreting completed. Carpeting of the home changerooms is to be done.
- Footpaths – works are well progressed into completing the footpath network.
- Street Lighting – completion of street lighting to the developed areas of the townsite are imminent.
- Kadjininy Kep – plans are being drawn up for toilets and changerooms. Once completed, a number of other developments, including bricking up the southern fence (main entrance), will be undertaken,
- Housing – design research is currently being undertaken by a Committee for a new house in Uppill Street.

Works being developed for Year 2 funding include:

- Donnan Park shade shelter
- Tennis courts/BMX shade shelter
- Cemetery Eco toilet
- Dam spillway, valve, pump
- Street lighting - Uppill St associated with the new house
- Depot ablutions
- Skate Park

Works are nearing completion on Projects being undertaken from the Federal Government's Regional Local Community Infrastructure Program including:

- Town Hall's refurbishment.
- Donnan Park BBQ Covered Way.

For further information on any of these issues, please contact your local Councillor or the Staff at the Shire Office.

Mick Oliver, Chief Executive Officer