

SHIRE NOTES



Amalgamations Debate

The Minister for Local Government and Regional Development has given 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*. Whilst the Premier has since ruled out forced amalgamations, he has urged all local governments to voluntarily consider the process. The Nationals, Labor Party and 2 Independents have also given the advice they will not support forced amalgamations.

The first deadline of the Minister has been met with the Structural Reform Steering Committee's *Checklist* having been completed and submitted before the 30 April deadline. Essentially the *Checklist* supported continued and extended resource sharing (structural reform) rather than amalgamation – which seems to be a similar position adopted by most local governments.

Strategic Plan

The Shire of Tammin's Strategic Plan has expired (2006) and requires reconsideration. Over the past few months, Council has been discussing a new Strategic Plan with the culmination of a draft being adopted for public comment. If you would like to read the Plan, please contact the Office Staff for a copy. Comments are sought by 13 May.

Heavy Vehicle Routes

Main Roads WA has asked Council to comment on Restricted Access Vehicle (RAV) routes through the Shire of Tammin. Whilst the classification of the roads generally appears appropriate, two roads appear inconsistent.

Bungulla North Rd is classified as a road train (36m) route but this classification does not extend onwards to Nembudding South Rd. It would seem that this Road should be reclassified (downgraded) to a long vehicle or pocket road train (27.5m) route.

Similarly, Goldfields Rd west of the Shire of Tammin/Cunderdin boundary is classified as a road train (36m) route but reverts to a long vehicle or pocket road train (27.5m) route in the Shire of Tammin. It would seem that the Shire of Tammin section should be reclassified (upgraded) to a road train (36m) route.

Before taking such action, Council has invited public comment. Comments are sought by 13 May.

Astronomical Society

A great night (both weather wise and social) was held at the Donnan Park Oval on 2 May. The Society members set up and displayed their telescopes and answered the endless questions from Tammin residents.

It is clear that the attraction of this strong group to Tammin will enhance our community.

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