

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.

Council's Project Team of Rodney Stokes, Bernard Stokes and Stephen Jefferies appointed to determine the preferred amalgamation structure, has met and discussed the issues. The President and CEO have also met with their counterparts with the Shire of Kellerberrin. The current consensus is that whilst Council is keen to pursue structural reform (resource sharing etc) amalgamations under current legislation is not its choice. This is also the direction of SEAVROC – made up of the Shires of Cunderdin Quairading, York, Beverley and Brookton with whom the Shire of Tammin has sought membership.

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.

TALEC Closure

On 4 April the Shire of Tammin, in conjunction with Alcoa and others involved in TALEC over its 18 year history, celebrated its achievements at a function in the Tammin Lesser Hall. 66 people sat down to a lunch prepared by Michael, Albert and Beryl.

Interesting reminiscing addresses were provided by John Collett and Brian Doy (Alcoa), Harry Lauk (Department of Agriculture), Joan Button and Kevin Uppill (ex Shire Presidents) and Gwen Patten (Caretaker). Shire President Rodney Stokes also spoke and congratulated the community for their achievements through TALEC.

The Shire of Tammin is now seeking a leasee to bring a new life to the barracks buildings.

Community Grants

Council has invited submissions from community groups for financial support for consideration as part of the draft 2009/10 Budget. If you have an interest, please contact the Office Staff for the submission form.

Hunts Well

Discussions were recently held with Smith Drilling in relation to pumping water from Hunts Well to the town dam for use on the oval. The advice given was there was insufficient water in the bore for this purpose. Council has now abandoned this project and will concentrate on gathering surface water from within the townsite.

Town Hall Ground Water

Smith Drilling also provided advice in relation to the problem of ground water under the Town Hall. Whilst great things have been achieved with the ventilation system

installed in the Hall to suck out the air from under the floor (and dry out the floor boards) the longer term solution of lowering the water table is being pursued.

CWA Celebrates 70th Anniversary

Council has extended its congratulations to the Tammin CWA who will celebrate their 70th anniversary on 23 April.

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.

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