



24 May 2012

Metropolitan Local Government Review Draft Findings

Tuesday night Council endorsed the submission to the draft findings of the Robson Metropolitan Local Government Review.

In considering the submission, Councillors expressed concern about the lack of justification for many of the findings. These are draft findings and now what is really awaited is the final report and then the State Government's response to the final report.

Mayor Max Hipkins said, "The report contains findings only and comprises opinions. There are no facts or evidence presented on which the findings are based."

The Council's submission has been forwarded to the Panel on Tuesday and can be viewed on the website.

Mayor Hipkins also announced that at the Forum of Metropolitan Mayors held on Monday were to finalise WALGA's response to the Draft Findings of the Metropolitan Local Government Reform Review Committee, there were only two contentious items.

1. Panel Finding 11, in relation to Consideration should be given to establishing a Local Government Commission to manage the relationship between State and local government, and to oversee implementation of the reform process. This was supported 15/14;
2. Panel Finding 13, dealing with options for local government metropolitan Perth are:
 - a. 10 to 12 councils centred on strategic activity centres;
 - b. five councils based on the central area and sub-regions; and
 - c. one single metropolitan council.

This was not supported. WALGA supports a Government model for the Perth metropolitan region consisting of approximately 15-20 Local Governments based on sustainability principles, with reference to Directions 2031, using existing Local government boundaries as a starting point.

An amendment moved by Mayor Hipkins to include the words "if restructuring is voluntary" was lost with most Western Suburbs Mayors being the only supporters.

An additional clause moved by Mayor Hipkins that "WALGA also supports a variation of option c, being a Metropolitan Authority responsible for waste disposal, regional planning and transport, co-existing with local governments." was lost 14/15.

A procedural amendment moved by Mayor Hipkins to include the words "Any structural change of local government should be subject to a community right of veto" was also lost with most Western Suburbs Mayors being the only supporters.

ENDS

Media enquiries should be directed to the Communications Officer on 9273 3500.