Local Government Advisory Board

ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSAL TO AMALGAMATE
THE SHIRE OF TAMBELLUP AND THE SHIRE OF BROOMEHILL
March 2008

Department of Local Government and Regional Development
Government of Western Australia
www.dlgrd.wa.gov.au

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1. INTRODUCTION

On 14 May 2007 the Shire of Tambellup and the Shire of Broomehill unanimously resolved to dissolve the two existing local governments and create one new local government. On 15 May 2007 the Shires submitted an amalgamation proposal to the Local Government Advisory Board (the Board). If successful the external boundary of the new local government would be defined by the current district boundaries of both Shires.

Clause 2 (b) of Schedule 2.1 of the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act) allows local governments to submit proposals for amalgamation to the Board. A proposal is to set out clearly the nature of the proposal, including the effects on the local governments. It is to be accompanied by a map illustrating the proposed new district boundaries and is to comply with all regulations.

The proposal received by the Board included a feasibility study, which was funded from the State Government's *Connecting Local Governments and Structural Reform* program. The feasibility study was conducted by Bob Smillie Consultancy Pty Ltd. The study addressed a wide range of issues associated with the proposed amalgamation. A map illustrating the proposed district boundary for the new local government was sourced from Landgate, and is included at Appendix 1. The major issues identified in the feasibility study are summarised below:

- Both Shires have been committed to working together since 2005 and have contributed $459,224 towards a resource sharing agreement, which has put in place many of the structural changes required to facilitate a smooth transition to an amalgamated local government;

- The amalgamated local government will achieve future viability for both communities, deliver better services to the community, make long term cost savings and be less reliant on Commonwealth and State Government grants and funding;

- The Shires will not have a ward system and would like equal representation from each of the existing local governments for the first two electoral cycles. The council will meet monthly, alternating between the two Council offices;

- The administration centre will be located at Tambellup, with Broomehill remaining open for licensing, account payments, library and tourist information; and

- Both local government works depots will be maintained with works crews sharing plant equipment and the works programs.

The Board considered the proposal and resolved to conduct a formal inquiry at its meeting on 14 August 2007. The Shire of Tambellup and the Shire of Broomehill were formally advised of the Board's decision to conduct a formal inquiry on 31 August 2007.

2. ROLE OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADVISORY BOARD

The Local Government Advisory Board is a statutory body established under Section 2.44 of the *Local Government Act 1995* to provide advice to the Minister for Local Government on local government matters.

The Board's major function is to assess proposals to change local government boundaries and their system of representation and make recommendations to the Minister for Local Government about such proposals.

3. MEMBERSHIP OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADVISORY BOARD

The current membership of the Board is as follows:

Chair	Cr Helen Dullard OAM
Council Representatives	Mayor Paddi Creevey Cr Michael Albert (Deputy)
	Mayor Ron Yuryevich AM RFD Cr Moira Girando JP (Deputy)
Chief Executive Officer Representative	Mr Eric Lumsden PSM Ms Joanne Trezona (Deputy)
Department of Local Government & Regional Development	Mr Quentin Harrington (Deputy Chair) Mr Tim Fowler (Deputy)

4. CONDUCTING THE INQUIRY

Clause 2 (2) of Schedule 2.1 of the Act sets out the requirements for proposals for boundary changes as follows:

- State the nature of the proposal, the reasons for making the proposal and the effects of the proposal on local governments;
- Include a plan illustrating any proposed changes to the boundaries of the district; and
- Comply with regulations about proposals.

As this is a formal inquiry the Board is required under clause 4 of Schedule 2.1 of the Act to give notice to affected local governments, affected electors and the other electors of districts directly affected by the proposal. The Board also produced an Information Paper on the proposals and a copy of this is included at Appendix 2.

In carrying out a formal inquiry the Board is required to consider submissions made to it under clause 4 (2) (c) of Schedule 2.1 of the Act and have regard, where applicable to:

- community of interests;
- physical and topographic features;
- demographic trends;
- economic factors;
- the history of the area;
- transport and communication;
- matters affecting the viability of local governments; and
- the effective delivery of local government services.

The Board may also take into account any other matter it considers relevant as part of its inquiry.

The Following principles form the basis for considering local government boundary changes using the factors identified above:

4.1 Community of Interests

Community of interests includes parts of a district that share common interests, values, characteristics and issues giving rise to a separate sense of identity or community. Factors contributing to a sense of identity or community include shared interests and shared use of community facilities. For example, sporting, leisure, religious and library facilities create a focus for the community.

The use of shopping areas and the location of schools also act to draw people together with similar interests. This can also give indications about the direction that people travel to access services and facilities. The external boundaries of a local government need to reflect distinct communities of interest wherever possible.

Neighbourhoods, suburbs and towns are important units in the physical, historical and social infrastructure and often generate a feeling of community and belonging. The Board believes that wherever possible, it is inappropriate to divide these units between local governments.

4.2 Physical and Topographic Features

Physical and topographic features may be natural or man-made and will vary from area to area. They may include:

- water features (such as rivers);
- catchment boundaries;
- coastal plains and foothills;
- parks and reserves; and
- man-made features (such as railway lines or freeways).

These features can form identifiable boundaries and can also act as barriers to movement between adjoining areas. In many cases physical and topographical features are appropriate district and ward boundaries. The Board supports local government structures and boundaries that facilitate the integration of human activity and land use.

4.3 Demographic Trends

Local Government should consider the following characteristics when determining the demographics within its locality:

- population size;
- population trends;
- distribution by age;
- gender; and
- occupation.

Current and projected population factors will be relevant as well as similarities and differences between areas within the local government.

4.4 Economic Factors

Economic factors can include any factor that reflects the character of economic activities and resources in the area including:

- industries within the local area;
- distribution of community assets; and
- infrastructure.

4.5 History of the Area

The history of an area can be a relevant consideration, although the Board believes that in the majority of cases this will not be a primary justification for changing or retaining local governments and local government boundaries. The nature of historical ties between communities is important to understand, irrespective of where the local government boundaries lie.

A community within a local government may have a strong historical identity; alternatively there may be strong historical links between two or more communities in adjacent local governments. It is important to note that historical identity is not necessarily lessened if an area does not have its own local government.

4.6 Transport and Communication

The transport and communications linkages between towns and other areas may be a significant barrier to movement and therefore an appropriate boundary between local governments.

Consideration of the following factors is important in any assessment of local government boundaries:

- port access;
- neighbouring towns;
- railways; and
- major roads.

4.7 Matters Affecting the Viability of Local Governments

Local government should have a sufficient resource base:

- to be able to efficiently and effectively exercise its proper functions and delegated powers and operate facilities and services;
- to be flexible and responsive in the exercise of its functions and powers and operation of its facilities and services;
- to employ appropriate professional expertise and skills; and
- to be capable of embracing micro-economic reform.

Each local government should have a diverse and sufficient rate base to ensure that general purpose grants do not represent the major revenue source.

4.8 Effective Delivery of Local Government Services

A broad range of factors can be relevant to the effective delivery of local government services and these are often directly relevant to those that also affect the viability of local governments. They include:

- the size and geographical spread of the population;
- management effectiveness and efficiency;
- the availability of staff expertise; and
- appropriate infrastructure and equipment.

5. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

5.1 Public Hearings and Written Submissions

The Board conducted an extensive public consultation process, in accordance with clause 4 of Schedule 2.1 of the Act, which requires that a Notice of Inquiry is to contain advice that the Board is undertaking a formal inquiry into a proposal, setting out details of the inquiry, its proposed scope and advice that submissions may be made to the Board no later than six weeks after the date the notice is first given. A copy of the Notice is included at Appendix 3.

The six weeks public submission period commenced on 2 November 2007 and closed at 4 pm on 17 December 2007. The Notice of Inquiry appeared in the *West Australian* on 2 & 14 November 2007, in the *Great Southern Herald* on 14 November 2007 and in the *Albany Advertiser* on 13 & 15 November 2007.

The Act requires that any hearing for the purpose of an inquiry is to be conducted in a way that makes it as easy as possible for interested parties to participate fully. The Board held two separate public hearings to allow individuals and groups to make written and/or verbal submissions on the proposed amalgamation. The times and locations for public hearings were organised to ensure that affected residents were able to access a hearing within close proximity to their place of residence.

The venues, dates and attendance numbers for the hearings are included in the following table:

Table 5.1: Public Hearing Venues, Dates & Attendance

	DATE	ATTENDANCE
Tambellup	19 November 2007	8
Broomehill	19 November 2007	7

Eight people from the Shire's staff and the public attended the public hearing held in the Shire of Tambellup, and three people addressed the Board. Seven people from the Shire's staff and the public attended the public hearing held in the Shire of Broomehill, and four people addressed the Board. The table below indicates the number and percentage of submissions that supported and opposed the amalgamation:

Table 5.2: Public Hearings

	Support	Oppose
Tambellup	2 (66.66%)	1 (33.33%)
Broomehill	4 (100%)	0 (0%)
Total	6 (85%)	1 (15%)

The Board received three written submissions. The table below indicates the number and percentage of submissions that supported and opposed the amalgamation:

Table 5.3: Written Submissions		
	Support	**Oppose**
Total	0 (0%)	3 (100%)

One person presented both a written and verbal submission and these have been counted as a single submission. The presentations by the two affected local governments have not been included in these statistics. The table below indicates the overall number and percentage of submissions that supported and opposed the amalgamation:

Table 5.4: Combined Public Consultation		
	Support	**Oppose**
Total	6 (66.66%)	3 (33.33%)

The principle reasons for supporting the amalgamation are summarised below:

- Voluntary amalgamations are preferable to forced amalgamations. Local governments need to take a leadership role in structural reform, recognising that the Victorian and Queensland experience could be replicated in Western Australia;
- The two Shires already share staff and resources and amalgamation is a next logical step;
- There is a very strong community of interest between the two towns and local governments, with sporting and social clubs sharing members and venues; and
- The decreasing demography in the region requires the two local governments to merge. The increase in size will also facilitate lobbying with the other two tiers of government.

The principle reasons for opposing the amalgamation are summarised below:

- The main problem facing the local government sector is cost-shifting by the two other tiers of government. The amalgamation does nothing to address this problem and as such is a waste of time and resources;
- The amalgamation of the two local governments does nothing to ensure that the standard of local government services will continue at existing levels;
- A bigger local government by and large does not guarantee better local government and it will remove the “local” from local government; and
- The Shire of Katanning is the regional centre and it does not make sense to exclude it from any structural reform of local governments in the region.

5.2 Consultation with Affected Local Governments

The Board met individually with both local governments to provide them with an opportunity to discuss, and put forward their views on the proposal. The Board meetings were held in the Shire of Tambellup and the Shire of Broomehill on 19 November 2007.

A number of issues were raised by both local governments regarding the process for amalgamating the two Shires and the structure of the new local government. These concerns, which are summarised below, are based on the assumption that the amalgamation would be recommended by the Board.

- The no ward structure of the new local government as proposed is not feasible and the two local governments will need to consider another ward structure for the new local government;
- The new local government would have 9 council positions;
- The Shire President of the new local government would be elected by the Council;
- The two local governments agree that one commissioner would be adequate;
- The creation date of the new local government would coincide with the financial year; and
- As the two local governments already share staff and resources the merging of the local governments can be achieved more expeditiously.

5.3 Findings

At the two public hearings conducted by the Board, only one resident spoke against the amalgamation. The Board also received four written submissions that opposed the amalgamation, although one of these was submitted from a person who addressed the public hearing. The Shire of Katanning submitted a comprehensive submission opposing the amalgamation. The arguments presented by the Shire of Katanning centred on their belief that they are the regional centre for the surrounding towns of Broomehill, Tambellup and Woodanilling.

The Board is sympathetic to these claims and believes that further structural reform in the region is inevitable. The Board is encouraged by the manner in which the Shires of Tambellup and Broomehill have approached the amalgamation and the spirit of cooperation which has ensued.

6. FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

The financial implications of the proposal to amalgamate the Shires of Tambellup and Broomehill are of significant interest to the Board. The Board conducted a financial analysis of both local governments to determine their current financial position and the future impact of the proposed amalgamation.

6.1 Terms of Reference

The terms of reference for the financial analysis are as follows:

"Undertake an assessment of the current financial position of both local governments and the implications of that financial position for a merged local government".

The financial analysis into the proposal to amalgamate the Shire of Tambellup with the Shire of Broomehill examined the financial viability of the new local government if the proposal was accepted.

Reliance was placed on the audited financial statements for the past five years to 30 June 2007 and the budget for 2007/2008 in order to establish the future viability of the new local government. No additional work except as disclosed in this report was undertaken to verify the information included in the audited financial statements.

6.2 Review of Statutory Financial Ratios

There are a series of key financial ratios prescribed by legislation included in the audited financial statements used to measure the liquidity, debt, coverage, effectiveness and financial position of all local governments. These indicators provide a short term measure of a local government's performance and trends over a number of reporting periods.

The prescribed financial ratios are:

- **Current Ratio**

This ratio focuses on the liquidity position and represents:

$$\frac{\text{Current Assets - Restricted Current Assets - Self Supporting Loans}}{\text{Current Liabilities - Current Liabilities Associated with Restricted Current Assets}}$$

- **Debt Ratio**

This ratio is a measure of total liabilities to total assets or alternatively the number of times the total liabilities are covered by the total assets and represents:

$$\frac{\text{Total Liabilities}}{\text{Total Assets}}$$

- **Debt Service Ratio**

This ratio measures the ability to service debt out of available operating revenue and represents:

$$\frac{\text{Debt Service Cost (principle \& interest on loans)}}{\text{Available Operating Revenue}}$$

- **Rate Coverage Ratio**

This ratio measures the dependency on rates to fund operations and represents:

$$\frac{\text{Net Rate Revenue}}{\text{Operating Revenue}}$$

- **Outstanding Rates**

This ratio measures the effectiveness with the collection of rates and represents:

$$\frac{\text{Total Rates Outstanding}}{\text{Total Rates Collectible}}$$

- **Gross Debt to Revenue Ratio**

This ratio is a measure of a local government's ability to service debt in any given year out of its total revenue and represents:

$$\frac{\text{Total Borrowings + Utilised Overdraft}}{\text{Total Revenue}}$$

- **Untied Cash to Trade Creditors Ratio**

This ratio provides an indication of whether a local government has sufficient unrestricted cash to pay its trade creditors in accordance with normal trading terms and represents:

$$\frac{\text{Untied Cash (Uncommitted Cash)}}{\text{Unpaid Trade Creditors}}$$

- **Gross Debt to Economically Realisable Assets Ratio**

This ratio provides a measure as to whether a local government has sufficient realisable assets to cover its total borrowings and represents:

$$\frac{\text{Total Borrowings + Utilised Overdraft}}{\text{Total Assets - Infrastructure Assets}}$$

These ratios reported in the annual financial statements have been summarised to provide an indication of the short to medium term financial health of each local government and the unified position for 2006 and 2007.

6.2.1 Financial Ratio Analysis

The reported financial ratios for the Shire of Tambellup are as follows:

Table 6.1: Financial Ratios - Shire of Tambellup

Ratio as a Percentage	**2003 %**	**2004 %**	**2005 %**	**2006 %**	**2007 %**
Current (benchmark > 100%)	146	27	(2)	34	127
Debt (benchmark < 100%)	4	4	4	3	3
Debt Service (benchmark < 10%)	3	7	6	4	3
Rate Coverage (benchmark metro > 27%)	31	32	32	27	25
Outstanding Rates (benchmark < 5%)	2	2	2	3	5
Gross Debt to Revenue* (benchmark < 60%)	-	-	32	19	15
Untied Cash to Trade Creditors* (benchmark > 100%)	-	-	(203)	(42)	297
Gross Debt to Economically Realisable Assets* (benchmark < 30%)	-	-	21	22	19

*Note: These prescribed ratios apply from 2005 onwards

The financial ratios and financial trends indicate an improvement in the Shire of Tambellup's current and untied cash to trade creditor ratio in 2007 to a position where it is above the benchmark level. There is a moderate to high dependency on rates to finance the operations of the Shire. This has declined over the past five years although it remains slightly less than the average for a small rural council of this size. There is a high dependency on rates, grants and contributions to finance the operations of the Shire.

With the exception of the outstanding rates ratio the Shire is under the benchmark for all other reported short to medium term financial ratios.

The reported financial ratios for the Shire of Broomehill are as follows:

Table 6.2: Financial Ratios - Shire of Broomehill					
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Ratio as a Percentage	%	%	%	%	%
Current (benchmark > 100%)	111	73	103	62	232
Debt (benchmark < 100%)	3	2	2	2	3
Debt Service (benchmark < 10%)	3	4	4	9	10
Rate Coverage (benchmark metro > 27%)	31	33	27	29	32
Outstanding Rates (benchmark < 5%)	1	1	2	3	3
Gross Debt to Revenue* (benchmark < 60%)	-	-	17	6	8
Untied Cash to Trade Creditors* (benchmark > 100%)	-	-	0	16	218
Gross Debt to Economically Realisable Assets* (benchmark < 30%)	-	-	12	6	1

*Note: These prescribed ratios apply from 2005 onwards

The financial ratios and financial trends indicate an improvement in the current and untied cash to trade creditor ratio of the Shire of Broomehill in 2007. The current ratio fell below the benchmark in 2004 and 2006 and the untied cash to trade creditors was below the benchmark in 2005 and 2006. There is a high dependency on rates and grants to finance the operations of the Shire. The rate coverage is above the average for a local government of this size.

With the exception of the debt service ratio in 2007 which is at the benchmark level requiring a need to improve the collection of outstanding rates, the Shire remained under the benchmark for all other financial ratios for 2007.

6.3 Combined

Using the financial information from the 30 June 2007 audited financial statements the prescribed financial ratios were recalculated.

Table 6.3 Financial Statements - Combined			
	Tambellup	Broomehill	Combined
	$'000	$'000	$'000
Current Assets	1,092	1,210	2,302
Restricted Current Assets	739	651	1,390
Self Supporting Loans	14	0	14
Current Liabilities	279	259	538
Current Liabilities Associated With Self Supporting Loans	0	0	0
Total Liabilities	631	375	1,006
Total assets	18,982	12,420	33,402
Debt Service Costs	80	76	156
Operating Revenue (adjusted)	1,901	1,558	3,459
Total Rates Outstanding	28	17	45
Total Rates Collectable	630	598	1,228
Total Borrowings and Utilised Overdraft	388	287	675
Uncommitted Cash	214	333	547
Unpaid Trade Creditors	237	173	410
Total Assets less Infrastructure Assets	1,721	2,850	4,571

Table 6.4: Financial Ratios - Combined	
	2007
Ratio as a Percentage	%
Current (benchmark > 100%)	170
Debt (benchmark < 100%)	3
Debt Service (benchmark < 10%)	5
Rate Coverage (benchmark metro > 27%)	35
Outstanding Rates (benchmark < 5%)	4
Gross Debt to Revenue (benchmark < 60%)	20
Untied Cash to Trade Creditors (benchmark > 100%)	133
Gross Debt to Economically Realisable Assets (benchmark < 30%)	15

6.4 Grants

There are two components of Financial Assistance Grants distributed by the WA Local Government Grants Commission (the Commission) to local governments each year. These are the general purpose grants and the road grants, both of which are untied.

6.4.1 General Purpose Grants

Under the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995*, where two or more local governments are amalgamated into a single body, the general purpose grant provided to the new amalgamated body for each of the four years following amalgamation, should be the total of the amounts that would have been provided to the former bodies in each of those years if they had remained separate entities. The Commission maintains grants for a five year period following an amalgamation.

The Commission uses a "balanced budget'" approach for calculating the general purpose grants. The balanced budget is calculated as follows:

Assessed expenditure need – assessed revenue capacity = assessed equalisation requirement

Calculation of assessed revenue involves an assessment of the revenue-raising capacity of each local government in the categories of:

- residential and commercial/industrial rates;
- agricultural rates;
- pastoral rates;
- mining rates;
- investment earnings; and
- other revenue.

Assessed expenditure need, involves the assessment of each local government's operating expenditures in the provision of core services and facilities.

The 2006/07 grants were based on a four-year average of "Preliminary Equalisation Requirement" of local governments. This is consistent with the average used by the Commission for the 2002/03, 2003/04 and 2004/05 grants. In using a four-year average, the Commission uses the equalisation requirement for the last 6 years (from 2001/02), and drops the highest and lowest of the six figures out of the average to remove aberrations.

The Commission believes that this method of averaging will provide more long term stability in grant outcomes.

The general purpose grants for the Shire of Tambellup and the Shire of Broomehill for the past five financial years and percentage increase for the past four years is as follows;

Table 6.5: General Purpose Grants

	2004	2005		2006		2007		2008	
	$'000	$'000	%	$'000	%	$'000	%	$'000	%
Tambellup	283	328	16	361	10	392	9	424	8
Broomehill	206	210	2	218	4	236	10	259	10
Combined	489	538	10	579	8	628	8	683	9

Projected General Purpose Grants for 2009 will be approximately $683,000 plus an average annual increase of approximately 8.75% or $743,000.

6.4.2 Road Grants

In determining the local road funding to local governments, the Commission bases its funding to local governments using the "Asset Preservation Model". This model assesses the cost of maintaining a local government road network and the cost of reconstruction when the road reaches the end of its useful life.

Under the current principles, 7 percent of the Commonwealth funding provided for roads are allocated for special projects (one-third for roads servicing Indigenous communities and two-thirds for bridges). The remaining 93% is distributed according to the Asset Preservation Model.

The Asset Preservation Model assesses the average annual costs of maintaining each local government's road network and has the facility to equalise road standards through the application of minimum standards. These standards help local governments that have not been able to develop their road systems to the same standard as more affluent local governments.

Table 6.6: Road Grants

	2004	2005		2006		2007		2008	
	$'000	$'000	%	$'000	%	$'000	%	$'000	%
Tambellup	221	222	0	231	4	236	2	246	4
Broomehill	202	205	1	209	2	214	2	223	4
Combined	423	427	1	440	3	450	2	469	4

Projected Road Grants for 2009 will be approximately $469,000 plus an average increase of approximately 2.5% or $481,000.

6.4.3 Road to Recovery Grants

Road to Recovery Grant funding is the result of a four year program under which Commonwealth Government payments are made directly to local governments for the construction, upgrade or maintenance of local roads. The first four year program that expired in June 2004 was reviewed by the Commonwealth Government who extended the programme for a further four years from July 2005 to June 2009.

The program was implemented due to local road infrastructure in Australia reaching the end of its useful life and its replacement was beyond the capacity of local governments. The program provided Commonwealth Government funding to local governments for both urban and rural roads in all parts of Australia. Its focus was the renewal of roads to meet safety, transport connectivity, social and economic needs. The Shire of Tambellup and the Shire of Broomehill have received an allocation of the

Road to Recovery Grants over the period of the review with the second round of grant funding due to expire in June 2009.

Table 6.7: Road to Recovery Grants

	2004	2005		2006		2007		2008	
	$'000	$'000	%	$'000	%	$'000	%	$'000	%
Tambellup	143	143	0	138	(3)	138	0	138	0
Broomehill	130	130	0	128	(2)	128	0	128	0
Combined	273	273	0	266	(3)	266	0	266	0

Projected Road to Recovery Grants for 30 June 2009 will be $266,000.

Unless there is a further extension of the Road to Recovery Grants to local government the combined local governments will lose approximately $266,000 in revenue after 30 June 2009.

6.5 Operating Revenue

The operating revenue by nature and type for the past five years disclosed in the audited financial statements and percentage of total operating revenue for the Shire of Tambellup are as follows:

Table 6.8: Operating Revenue - Shire of Tambellup

	2003		2004		2005		2006		2007	
	$'000	%	$'000	%	$'000	%	$'000	%	$'000	%
Rates	495	31	514	32	568	32	598	27	630	24
Fines & Penalties	0	0	1	0	0	0	31	0	0	0
Fees & Charges	99	6	95	6	87	5	146	6	188	7
Grants & Sub Op	546	34	559	35	602	34	643	29	725	28
Grants & Sub N/Op	311	19	227	14	305	17	423	19	275	10
Reim, Cont & DON	31	2	44	3	52	3	80	4	214	8
Interest	25	32	25	2	26	1	32	1	44	2
Profit on the Sale of Assets	86	5	24	1	0	0	211	9	2	0
Other Revenue	13	1	122	8	149	8	110	5	494	19
Total	**1,606**	**100**	**1,611**	**100**	**1,789**	**100**	**2,244**	**100**	**2,572**	**100**
Less:										
Grants & Sub N/Op	(311)		(227)		(305)		(423)		(275)	
Profit on the Sale of Assets	(86)		(24)		(0)		(211)		(2)	
Less Cap Sewerage Program	(0)		(0)		(0)		(0)		(394)	
Revenue from Normal Operation	**1,209**		**1,360**		**1,484**		**1,610**		**1,901**	

Non-operating and one-off receipts of revenue have been excluded in the determination of operating revenue for each of the five years. In 2007 there was a receipt of income for undertaking a program on private works of approximately $394,000 for the Shire of Tambellup.

The operating revenue by nature and type for the past five years disclosed in the audited financial statements and percentage of total operating revenue for the Shire of Broomehill is as follows:

Table 6.9: Operating Revenue - Shire of Broomehill

	2003		2004		2005		2006		2007	
	$'000	%	$'000	%	$'000	%	$'000	%	$'000	%

Rates	436	28	484	33	511	27	538	29	598	32
Fees & Charges	59	4	50	3	65	3	80	4	117	6
Service Charges	17	1	17	1	17	1	24	1	13	1
Grants & Sub Op	925	59	748	51	398	21	536	29	587	32
Grants & Sub N/Op	29	2	12	1	586	31	469	26	285	15
Reim, Cont & DON	13	31	14	1	120	7	71	4	141	8
Interest	35	2	40	3	42	2	35	2	50	3
Profit on the Sale of Assets	5	0	51	3	88	5	17	1	0	0
Other Revenue	47	3	66	4	46	3	68	4	52	3
Total	**1,566**	**100**	**1,482**	**100**	**1,873**	**100**	**1,838**	**100**	**1,743**	**100**
Less:										
Grants & Sub N/Op	(29)		(12)		(586)		(469)		(285)	
Profit on the Sale of Assets	(5)		(51)		(88)		(17)		(0)	
Revenue from Normal Operation	**1,532**		**1,419**		**1,484**		**1,352**		**1,558**	

Table 6.10: Operating Revenue from Normal Operations - Combined

	2003 $'000	2004 $'000	2005 $'000	2006 $'000	2007 $'000
Tambellup	1,209	1,360	1,484	1,610	1,901
Broomehill	1,532	1,419	1,199	1,352	1,558
Combined	**2,741**	**2,779**	**2,683**	**2,962**	**3,459**

6.5 Operating Expenditure

The Shires of Tambellup and Broomehill during the past 2 years shared the services of a CEO. During this period, the two local governments have rationalised resources and services. Progress to date will ensure that both local governments are well positioned to progress the amalgamation.

Operating Expenditure for the Shire of Tambellup for the past five years summarised by nature and type is as follows:

Table 6.11: Operating Expenses - Shire of Tambellup

	2003		2004		2005		2006		2007	
	$'000	%	$'000	%	$'000	%	$'000	%	$'000	%
Employee Costs	437	33	505	30	594	31	541	28	792	34
Plant Op Costs	85	6	87	5	107	6	96	5	89	4
Interest Exp	13	1	32	2	29	2	27	1	24	1
Depreciation	433	32	522	30	564	29	585	30	613	26
Materials & Contracts	235	17	295	17	350	18	337	17	603	26
Insurance	58	4	69	4	69	4	67	3	65	3
Loss on Sale of Assets	9	1	8	0	5	0	7	0	9	0
Utility Charges	27	2	36	2	46	2	36	2	40	2
Other Expenses	49	4	164	10	164	8	270	14	107	4
Total	**1,346**	**100**	**1,718**	**100**	**1,928**	**100**	**1,966**	**100**	**2,342**	**100**

Expenditure increased in 2007 due to additional private works undertaken on behalf of the Water Corporation totalling approximately $400,000. This was a one-off project.

Operating Expenditure for the Shire of Broomehill for the past five years by nature and type is as follows:

Table 6.12: Operating Expenses - Shire of Broomehill

	2003		2004		2005		2006		2007	
	$'000	%	$'000	%	$'000	%	$'000	%	$'000	%
Employee Costs	506	31	397	27	478	27	548	30	521	26

Interest Exp	18	1	15	1	13	1	9	1	7	0
Depreciation	801	49	785	54	822	46	865	47	908	46
Materials & Contracts	56	4	146	10	209	12	210	11	302	15
Insurance	47	3	55	4	50	3	53	3	55	3
Loss on Sale of Assets	1	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	1	0
Utility Charges	39	2	38	3	41	2	31	2	34	2
Other Expenses	158	10	9	1	170	9	115	6	165	8
Total	**1,626**	**100**	**1,446**	**100**	**1,787**	**100**	**1,831**	**100**	**1,993**	**100**

6.7 Governance

A proposed merger of the two local governments will result in savings in governance expenditure due to a reduction in councillors from 18 to 9. Governance expenditure for 2006 and 2007 for each local government over the past 2 years is detailed below:

Table 6.13: Governance

	2006 $'000	2007 $'000
Tambellup (9 Councillors)	204	236
Broomehill (9 Councillors)	247	200
Total Cost for 18 Councillors	451	436
Less Cost for 9 Councillors	(225)	(218)
Savings	**226**	**218**

6.8 Employee Costs

Over the past two years the two local governments have rationalised a number of services to facilitate a smooth transition to amalgamation of the two local governments. Due to natural attrition and rationalisation of staff over the past two years, there will probably be no requirement for a further reduction in staff if the amalgamation proceeds.

Table 6.14: Operating Expenses from Normal Operations

	2006 $'000	2007 $'000
Tambellup	1,966	2,342
Broomehill	1,831	1,993
Total	**3,797**	**4,335**
less:		
Loss on Sale of Assets - Tambellup	(7)	**(9)**
Loss on Sale of Assets - Broomehill	(0)	(1)
Savings in Governance Expenses	(266)	(218)
Private Works for Water Corporation	(0)	(400)
Operating Expenses from Normal Operations	3,564	3,707

6.9 Non-current Assets / Depreciation

Both local governments intend retaining their own non-current assets if the amalgamation proceeds. There will be no buildings or housing surplus to the needs of an amalgamated local government given that services will still be provided in both towns and current infrastructure will be maintained.

There may be small items of equipment surplus to the needs of the two local governments that will be sold. However the realisable value of these is considered immaterial for disclosure in this report.

The depreciation of non-current assets will need to be reassessed as the rates presently used by the two local governments for each class of non-current asset varies. These rates will need to be brought into line and reflect the depletion of the assets over their useful lives.

6.10 Loan Borrowings

At the 30 June 2007 the Shire of Tambellup had approximately $388,000 in eight outstanding loans. The Shire's debt and debt service ratios were below the benchmark, demonstrating an ability to service debt.

At the 30 June 2007 the Shire of Broomehill had approximately $150,000 in four outstanding loans. The Shire's debt and debt service ratio were below the benchmark, demonstrating an ability to service debt.

6.11 Reserves

At the 30 June 2007 the Shire of Tambellup had approximately $598,000 in cash backed reserves established for specific future commitments.

At the 30 June 2007 the Shire of Broomehill had approximately $591,000 in cash backed reserves established for specific future commitments.

6.12 Equity

The net equity of the two local governments for the 30 June 2007 is as follows:

Table 6.15: Equity

	2007 $'000
Tambellup	18,351
Broomehill	14,045

The net equity is represented by the net assets of each local government. The written down value of non current assets of both local governments are carried at cost. There will be a need to review all significant accounting policies and as noted above a review of depreciation rates to ensure they are applied on a consistent basis if the amalgamation proceeds.

6.14 Findings

The proposal to amalgamate the Shire of Tambellup and the Shire of Broomehill will not have a significant impact on the community generally, as both local governments have been functioning as a single entity, more or less, for the past 2-3 years.

The Shire will need to plan for a reduction in general purpose grants in the sixth year after the amalgamation as the WA Local Government Grants Commission maintains grants at pre-amalgamation levels for a period of five years.

Unless there is a further review and extension of the Road to Recovery Grants by the Federal Government beyond the 30 June 2009, the new amalgamated local government will lose approximately $266,000 in Road to Recovery Grants after the 30 June 2009.

The amalgamation will result in a reduction in operating expenditure due to a reduction in elected members from 18 to 9, and the likely rationalisation of future expenditure.

Both local governments at the 30 June 2007 were financially viable and met most of the benchmarks of the prescribed financial ratios disclosed in their financial statements. Taking the 30 June 2007 financial statements and recalculating the financial ratios for a combined local government indicates that it will continue to be financially viable and meet the required benchmarks.

7. ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSAL

7.1 Community of Interests

A number of submissions were made to the Board claiming that the two communities have very strong connections and share a common community of interest. Examples provided to support this argument are the strong affiliations between sporting and social clubs in both towns.

The Board received a submission from the Shire of Katanning that refuted this shared community of interests. The Shire of Katanning argued that the Shire of Broomehill has a stronger community of interest with the Shire of Katanning than it does with the Shire of Tambellup and that any proposal for structural reform of local governments in the region should include the Shire of Katanning.

The Board acknowledges the Shire of Katanning's concerns in this regard. However, the State Government's policy is that there will be no forced amalgamations of local governments. The inclusion of the Shire of Katanning as part of this amalgamation would not be consistent with this policy.

The collaborative and cooperative approach taken by the Shire of Broomehill and the Shire of Tambellup is commended by the Board and is indicative of the close ties enjoyed by the two communities.

The Board supports the community of interest arguments relating to the Shire of Broomehill and the Shire of Tambellup and recognises that the amalgamation of the two local governments will enhance their community of interests.

7.2 Physical and Topographic Features

The external district boundaries will not be amended by the proposal, as such this is not considered a significant factor in assessing the proposal.

7.3 Demographic Trends

The demographics of the Shire of Tambellup and the Shire of Broomehill are remarkably similar. The key statistics for the two shires are as follows:

Statistical Data	Shire of Tambellup	Shire of Broomehill
Population	700	499
Annual Average Growth Rate 1996-2006	-0.5%	-0.1%
Electors (2005)	477	365
Land area	1,437 square kilometres	1,376 square kilometres

Indigenous Population	11.2%	0.8%
Medium Individual Income (Weekly)	$402	$452
Medium Household Income (Weekly)	$890	$945
Number of Occupied Private Dwellings	221	180

The Department of Local Government and Regional Development collates population statistics for all local governments in Western Australia. This data is also used to indicate annual average growth rates. The Shire of Tambellup's annual average growth rate from 1996 to 2006 was -0.5% and the Shire of Broomehill's was -0.1%. As both Shires are experiencing minor population decreases the Board believes that the merger of the two local governments would serve to strengthen both communities.

7.4 Economic Factors

There is unlikely to be any significant increase or decrease in economic activity in the region, as the area is well established and the use of land is unlikely to change in the short to medium term, as such this is not considered a significant factor in assessing the proposal.

7.5 History of the Area

The Broomehill Road District was designated and defined on 19 May 1892 and within its boundaries it contained the current Shires of Broomehill and Tambellup. The Tambellup Road District was formed in 1905 after the local residents petitioned for its creation. Both local governments were gazetted as Shires on the 23 June 1961.

While the Board acknowledges that the two local governments and their respective town sites and communities have a distinct and separate identity and history the Board does not consider that this should impact on the amalgamation. The strong leadership and cooperation exhibited by the two local governments serve as an example of how local governments should collaborate to develop and implement further the structural reform initiatives.

7.6 Transport and Communication

The two Shires are well served by road and rail and there are no identifiable impediments to either transport or communications, as such this is not considered a significant factor in assessing the proposal.

7.7 Matters Affecting the Viability of Local Governments

The Board's financial analysis assessed the viability of the proposal to amalgamate the Shire of Tambellup and the Shire of Broomehill and found that there will not be a negative impact on the new Shire's capacity to meet the future needs of the community.

The new Shire will need to factor in reductions to its general purpose grants after five years. However, this is not seen as a major financial impediment and one that can be addressed through effective planning.

7.8 The Effective Delivery of Local Government Services

These is already a strong sense in the community that the local governments are operating as a single entity and the two communities and the two local governments were keen for the amalgamation to proceed as soon as possible.

The two local governments implemented a shared services agreement in 2005 and share key staff and systems, such as the Chief Executive Officer, works teams and rosters, and IT and financial systems. It is not expected that the amalgamation will be difficult to implement or have an adverse affect on the delivery of local government services.

7.9 Other Matters Considered

7.9.1 Representation

After the Board's visit to the two Shires on the 19 November 2007 the Shire of Tambellup and the Shire of Broomehill conducted a joint ward and representation review to determine the ward structure of the new local government. At a joint Council meeting on 1 February 2008 the Shires were presented with the following three options for the ward structure of the new local government:

- Option One = No Wards – 9 Council representatives:

Table 7.9.1.1: Ward and Representation – Option One

Ward	Number of Electors	Number of Councillors	Councillor to Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation
Total	**796**	**9**	**88**	

- Option Two = North and South Wards – 9 Council representatives:

Table 7.9.1.2: Ward and Representation – Option Two

Ward	Number of Electors	Number of Councillors	Councillor to Elector Ratio	% Ratio Deviation
North	349	4	87	1.35%
South	447	5	89	1.08%
Total	**796**	**9**	**88**	

- Option Three = East and West Wards – 9 Council representatives:

Table 7.9.1.3: Ward and Representation – Option Three				
Ward	**Number of Electors**	**Number of Councillors**	**Councillor to Elector Ratio**	**% Ratio Deviation**
East	413	5	83	6.61%
West	383	4	96	-8.26%
Total	**796**	**9**	**88**	

The local governments sought public comment on the ward and representation options and the majority of respondents supported Option Two. Given the strong community support for Option Two both Councils supported a ward structure based on the former district boundaries of the two local governments. The former Shire of Broomehill will form the North Ward and have 4 Council representatives and the former Shire of Tambellup will form the South Ward with 5 Council representatives. The Shire's also indicated that the Shire President of the new local government should be elected by the new Council and requested that the ward structure be maintained for the next two election cycles.

7.9.2 Name of the Proposed Local Government

The Councils of the Shire of Tambellup and the Shire of Broomehill both indicated in the meeting held with the Board that they would like the new local government to be known as the Shire of Broomehill – Tambellup.

7.10 Findings

The Board supports the formation of a new local government from the existing Shire of Tambellup and the Shire of Broomehill, to be named the Shire of Broomehill – Tambellup. The Board supports the collaborative and cooperative approach taken by the Councils in submitting their joint proposal and it believes that the leadership displayed by the Councils is indicative of the strong community of interest shared by the two communities.

The Board does not believe that there will be any difficulties in merging the two local governments as they already have systems in place as if they were operating as a single entity. The Board believes that the new local government will be financially viable and able to deliver services without a diminution in service standards. It is felt that service standards could actually improve under the proposed amalgamation.

8. CONCLUSION

In assessing this proposal the Board examined each of the matters required under Schedule 2.1 of the Act, and also the financial impact of the amalgamation and matters relating to representation. The Board notes that the Shire of Tambellup and the Shire of Broomehill jointly submitted the amalgamation proposal. While the Board received submissions during its public consultation process that opposed the amalgamation, the Board believes that an amalgamation of the two Shires is in the best interests of the two communities. Factors that supported the amalgamation included the shared community of interest, the viability of the new local government and the improved capacity to deliver local government services.

The Board commends the commitment of the Shire of Tambellup and the Shire of Broomehill in their efforts to progress the amalgamation. The Board supports the proposal to amalgamate the Shire's of Tambellup and Broomehill and will recommend to the Minister for Local Government that the amalgamation proceed.

9. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 Recommendations

In accordance with clauses 6 and 10A of Schedule 2.1 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, the Local Government Advisory Board recommends to the Minister for Local Government that orders be made to:

1) Abolish the Shire of Tambellup and the Shire of Broomehill and create a new local government from the amalgamation of the former Shires on 1 July 2008;

2) Name the new local government the Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup;

9.2 The Final Decision

The Board will submit this report to the Minister for Local Government for consideration. Before accepting or rejecting the Board's recommendation the Minister must notify electors in both local governments of their right to petition the Minister for Local Government for a poll on the matter. A valid petition must contain the signatures of either 250 or 10% of affected electors, whichever is the lowest.

If sufficient signatures are received from electors of either local government, the Minister for Local Government is required to put the Board's recommendation to a poll. A poll can be conducted in either or both local governments. If at least 50% of the electors cast a vote and a majority vote against the amalgamation, this result is binding on the Minister and the amalgamation will not proceed. If the majority of electors vote for the amalgamation the Minister for Local Government must proceed with the amalgamation and if the poll is not valid the Minister for Local Government may accept or reject the Board's recommendation.

10. INFORMATION SOURCES

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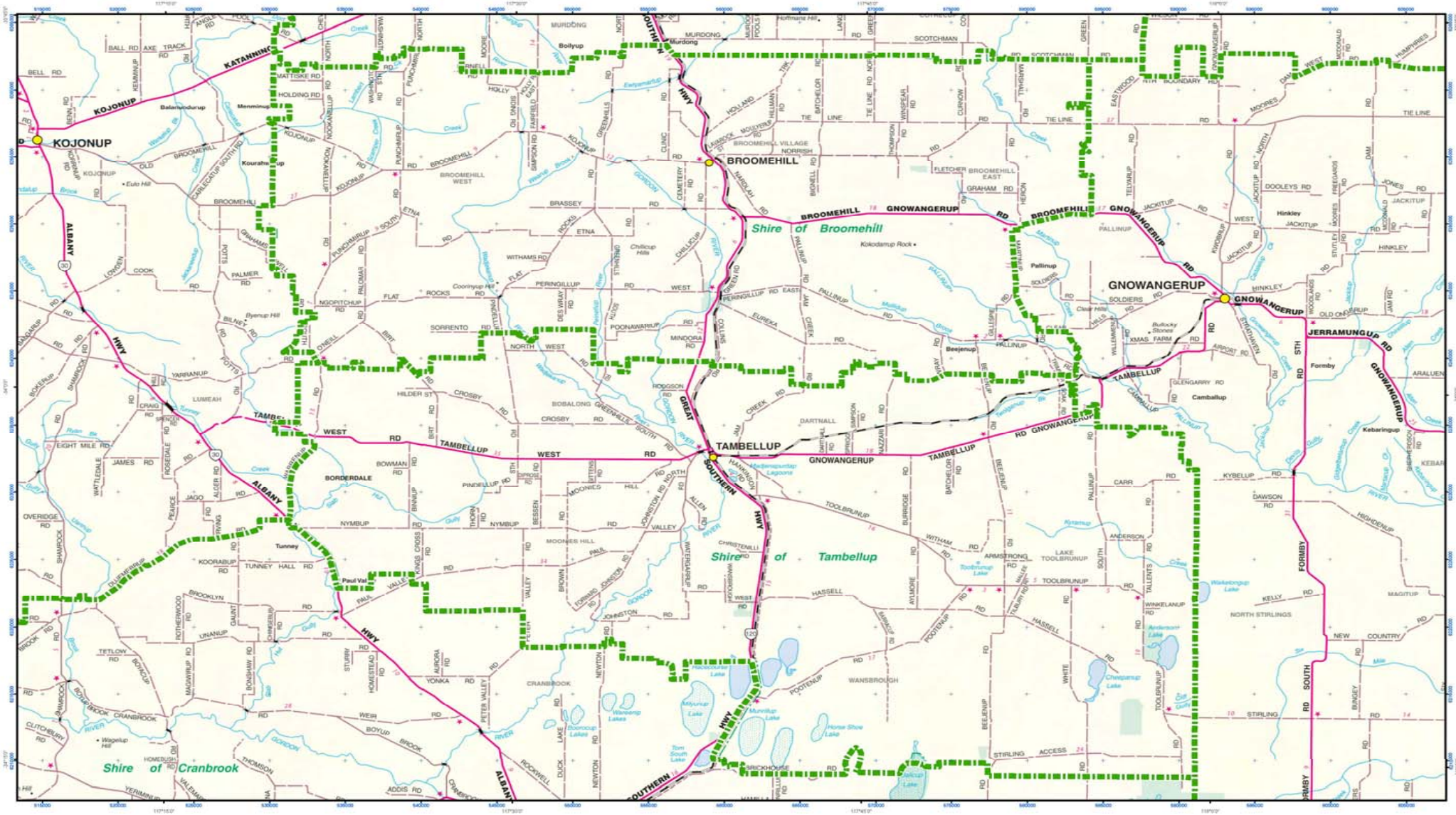
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11. APPENDICES

11.1 Proposal Map



Department of Local Government and Regional Development
Government of Western Australia

INFORMATION PAPER

PROPOSAL TO AMALGAMATE THE SHIRE OF TAMBELLUP AND THE SHIRE OF BROOMEHILL

This document is prepared by the Local Government Advisory Board and is intended as a guide to the range of issues to be considered as part of its inquiry.

The Local Government Advisory Board (the Board) has received a joint proposal for the amalgamation of the Shires of Tambellup and Broomehill. A map that illustrates the affected local governments is attached to this paper.

The Board has considered the proposal and decided to conduct a formal inquiry. Members of the public (individuals and groups) are invited to participate by attending public hearings. The dates and venues of the hearings are as follows:

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Monday 19 November 2007: 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm
Tambellup Hall, Norrish Street Tambellup

Monday 19 November 2007: 7:30 pm to 8.30 pm
Broomehill Recreation Centre, Tie Line Road Broomehill

NOTE: PUBLIC HEARINGS PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON THE PROPOSAL. IT IS NOT A FORUM FOR DEBATE ON THE PROPOSAL.

The Board welcomes community participation in its inquiry. Written submissions can be mailed, faxed or e-mailed to the address below. A public submission form is attached to this paper; it can be completed and returned to the Board. The Board also grants private hearings on request.

Submissions should be received by the Board by **4 pm on 17 December 2007.**

For further information please contact Gavin Horobin on 9217 1483.

Local Government Advisory Board
GPO Box R1250
PERTH WA 6844

Fax: 9217 1555
Email: advisory.board@dlgrd.wa.gov.au

The Local Government Advisory Board (the Board) is established to provide independent advice to the Minister for Local Government (the Minister) regarding proposals to change local government boundaries. The Board is conducting an inquiry into a proposal to amalgamate the Shires of Tambellup and Broomehill, under the provisions of Schedule 2.1 of the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act).

The proposal involves abolishing both existing local governments and creating a new local government with external boundaries defined by the current boundaries of both Shires. The proposal has been submitted to the Board by the Shire of Tambellup and the Shire of Broomehill both of which support the proposed change and consider it to be in the best interest of both Shires.

ASSESSING THE PROPOSAL

Under the *Local Government Act 1995,* the Board is required to take into account the following factors when assessing boundary change proposals:

- Community of interests;
- Physical and topographic features;
- Demographic trends;
- Economic factors;
- The history of the area;
- Transport and communication;
- Matters affecting the viability of local governments; and
- The effective delivery of local government services.

The Board will consider these factors and any others that are relevant to the inquiry including the name of the new local government, ward boundaries, names of wards, the number of elected members and the method of electing the Shire President, which could be election by electors or election by members of the council.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following information is intended as a guide to the range of issues the Board will take into account in its assessment. However, public submissions need not be limited by these factors and can address any area of interest relevant to the inquiry.

Community of Interests

Community of interests includes parts of a district that share common interests, values, characteristics and issues giving rise to a separate sense of identity or community. Factors contributing to a sense of identity or community include shared interests and shared use of community facilities. For example, sporting, leisure and library facilities create a focus for the community.

The use of shopping areas and the location of schools also act to draw people together with similar interests. This can also give indications about the direction that people travel to access services and facilities. The external boundaries of a local government need to reflect distinct communities of interest wherever possible.

Neighbourhoods, suburbs and towns are important units in the physical, historical and social infrastructure and often generate a feeling of community and belonging. The Board believes that wherever possible, it is inappropriate to divide these units between local governments.

Physical and Topographic Features

Physical and topographic features may be natural or man-made and will vary from area to area. They may include:

- water features (such as rivers);
- catchment boundaries;
- coastal plains and foothills;
- parks and reserves; and
- man-made features (such as railway lines or freeways).

These features can form identifiable boundaries and can also act as barriers to movement between adjoining areas. In many cases physical and topographical features are appropriate district and ward boundaries. The Board supports local government structures and boundaries that facilitate the integration of human activity and land use.

Demographic Trends

Local Government should consider the following characteristics when determining the demographics within its locality:

- population size;
- population trends;
- distribution by age;
- gender; and
- occupation.

Current and projected population factors will be relevant as well as similarities and differences between areas within the local government.

Economic Factors

Economic factors can include any factor that reflects the character of economic activities and resources in the area including:

- industries within the local area;
- distribution of community assets; and
- infrastructure.

History of the Area

The history of an area can be a relevant consideration, although the Board believes that in the majority of cases this will not be a primary justification for changing or retaining local governments and local government boundaries. The nature of historical ties between communities is important to understand, irrespective of where the local government boundaries lie.

A community within a local government may have a strong historical identity; alternatively there may be strong historical links between two or more communities in adjacent local governments. It is important to note that historical identity is not necessarily lessened if an area does not have its own local government.

Transport and Communication

The transport and communications linkages between towns and other areas may be a significant barrier to movement and therefore an appropriate boundary between local governments.

Consideration of the following factors is important in any assessment of local government boundaries:

- port access;
- neighbouring towns;
- railways; and
- major roads.

Matters Affecting the Viability of Local Governments

Local government should have a sufficient resource base:

- to be able to efficiently and effectively exercise its proper functions and delegated powers and operate facilities and services;
- to be flexible and responsive in the exercise of its functions and powers and operation of its facilities and services;
- to employ appropriate professional expertise and skills; and
- to be capable of embracing micro-economic reform.

Each local government should have a diverse and sufficient rate base to ensure that general purpose grants do not represent the major revenue source.

Effective Delivery of Local Government Services

A broad range of factors can be relevant to the effective delivery of local government services and these are often directly relevant to those that also affect the viability of local governments. They include:

- the size and geographical spread of the population;
- management effectiveness and efficiency;
- the availability of staff expertise; and
- appropriate infrastructure and equipment.

FINAL DECISION

On completion of its assessment, the Board will submit a report with recommendations to the Minister for Local Government for her consideration. If the amalgamation is recommended, the Board must notify electors of their right to petition the Minister for a poll on the matter. A valid petition must contain the signatures of either 250 or 10% of affected electors, whichever is the lowest. If sufficient signatures are received from electors of either local government, the Minister is required to put the Board's recommendation to a poll. A poll can be conducted in either or both local governments. If at least 50% of the electors cast a vote and a majority vote against the amalgamation, this result is binding on the Minister and the amalgamation will not proceed.

I/We_____
(Name)

Of_____
(Address)

PROPOSAL TO AMALGAMATE THE SHIRE OF TAMBELLUP AND THE SHIRE OF BROOMEHILL

Do you agree with the proposal? **Yes** **No**
(Please circle response)

Please provide reasons for your answer:

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
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_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
(Please attach further documentation if required)

Any other comments:

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Signed: _____Date: _____

Do you wish this information to remain private & confidential: **Yes** **No**

(Please return submissions to)
Local Government Advisory Board
GPO Box R1250
PERTH WA 6844
Fax: 9217 1555
Email: advisory.board@dlgrd.wa.gov.au

By 4 pm on 17 December 2007

11.3 Public Notice

Department of Local Government & Regional Development
Local Government Advisory Board
Proposal to Amalgamate the Shire of

Tambellup and the Shire of Broomehill

The Local Government Advisory Board (the Board) has received a joint proposal from the Shire of Tambellup and the Shire of Broomehill for the amalgamation of the two Shires.

The proposal involves abolishing both existing local governments and creating a new local government with external boundaries defined by the current boundaries of both Shires. The proposal has been submitted to the Board by the Shire of Tambellup and the Shire of Broomehill both of which support the proposed change and consider it to be in the best interest of both Shires.

In assessing the proposal the Board will consider communities of interest, physical and topographic features, demographic trends, economic factors, the history of the area, transport and communications, matters affecting the viability of local governments, the effective delivery of local government services and any other matter considered relevant to the inquiry.

The Board welcomes public participation in this inquiry and has developed an information paper about the proposal to assist in the preparation of submissions.

Public submissions may be made in writing or in person at public hearings at the following venues:

Public Hearings
Monday 19 November 2007:
5:30 pm to 6:30 pm
Tambellup Hall, Norrish Street Tambellup
Monday 19 November 2007:
7:30 pm to 8.30 pm
Broomehill Recreation Centre, Tie Line Road Broomehill

Note: Public hearings provide an opportunity for the public and other stakeholders to express their views on the proposals. It is not a forum for debate on the proposals. The Board will also grant private hearings on request.

For further information on the public or private hearings, making a written submission or to request an information paper please contact Gavin Horobin on 9217 1483 or by e-mail:

The information paper and public submission forms are also available on the Department of Local Government and Regional Development's website at:

http://www.dlgrd.wa.gov.au/LocalGovt/AdvisoryBoard/CurrentInquiries.asp

Written and e-mail submissions must be received by 4:00 pm on 17 December 2007:

Local Government Advisory Board
GPO Box R1250
Perth WA 6844
Fax: 9217 1555