LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADVISORY BOARD
DECISION ON AMALGAMATION PROPOSAL

Council has received confirmation from the Minister for Local Government that he has received and accepted the WA Local Government Advisory Board's Report in which the Board has determined **not** to recommend the Amalgamation Proposal as submitted by the South East Avon Regional Transition Group (Shires of Cunderdin, Quairading, Tammin and York).

The Advisory Board commended the Councils on the extent of research and preparation of the Regional Business Plan but highlighted the complexities of bringing the four Councils into one Council.

Council undertook extensive Public Consultation throughout the Structural Reform process however the Board determined that across the four Council Districts, further public information / consultation could have occurred.

Council advises that the Amalgamation Proposal **cannot** proceed any further and all Funding Commitments from the State Government ($2,655,000 – being balance of $2,950,000 allocated) for the Amalgamation are withdrawn. It is considered that this outcome by the State Government (through the Minister and the Local Government Advisory Board) gives a clear indication that such Amalgamations are considered not viable and certainly Amalgamations with smaller populations will not be recommended or supported in the future.

It will now be necessary to wait for the State Government to declare its intentions and plans for the shape and size of Rural and Regional Local Governments in the future.

Council acknowledges the significant efforts and resources that have gone into the Regional Business Plan and the high level of interest within the Community on this issue.

Council and its Staff will continue to work with the other three Shires to improve and expand the Regional Delivery of Services and to develop Uniform Policies and Local Laws across the Shires.

Council is committed to addressing the Funding Shortfalls and Infrastructure Renewal Gaps that have been starkly identified in the Planning and Asset Management Documents developed by the South East Avon Regional Transition Group Councils as part of the Regional Transition Group Process.

The recent withdrawal of significant Federal and State Government Monies to Local Government has seen the individual funding Shortfall situation for the Shire of Cunderdin, as identified in the Regional Business Plan, worsen and all Service Levels and Timing and Scope of Projects will have to be reviewed by Council and Staff.

A full copy of the Local Government Advisory Board Report is available on Council's Website: www.cunderdin.wa.gov.au

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Shire Councillors or the Chief Executive Officer.

Shire of Cunderdin Regional Transition Group Representatives:

Shire President Cr Rod Carter (Chairman of the SEARTG Board)
Deputy Shire President Cr Clive Gibsone
Chief Executive Officer Peter Naylor

23rd January 2014