

**Shire of Williams**  
**Minutes of the Special Meeting**  
**Held in the Council Chambers on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2009**

**Opening**

The President declared the meeting open at 5.04pm.

**Present**

Cr John Cowcher                      President  
Cr Richard Johnstone  
Cr Greg Cavanagh  
Cr Moya Carne  
Cr David Earnshaw  
Cr Graham Prowse  
Cr Gilbert Medlen

Ryan Duff                      Chief Executive Officer  
Ian Ball                      Deputy Chief Executive Officer

**Observers**

Geoff Higham, Catherine Higham, Avril Baxter, Janette Liddelow, Bob Rose, Jo Fowler, Vin Kain, Suzie Sattler

**Public Question Time**

Bob Rose asked Council not to be influenced by vested interests in the GM debate and to consider the results of the questionnaire returns when deliberating on the questions.

Catherine Higham asked Council not to ignore the questionnaire results and also asked if Council considered Common Law a fair way of dealing with losses to non-GM growers through contamination because growers can not insure against contamination.

Janette Liddelow asked Council if the GM debate is not a Local Government issue then how can a shire become GM free as mandated. Mrs Liddelow asked would Council be prepared to lead the district and lobby the Councils involved in the 4WD ROC to further extend the GM free zone.

Vin Kain asked Council to be bold enough to stick it's neck out and vote against having GM trials in Williams.

As the 15 minute Public Question time had expired the President advised that he would be closing question time.

***Cavanagh/Prowse***

That Public Question time be extended for 10 minutes.

**Carried 5/2**  
**Resolution 178/09**

Jo Fowler asked how Council are going to feel about non-GM farmers losing markets in Europe because they have banned GM product imports.

**8.1 Chief Executive Officer's Report**

<b>Report Reference:</b>	<b>8.1.1</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Genetically Modified Canola Survey</b>
<b>File Reference:</b>	13.10.60
<b>Statutory Reference:</b>	N/A
<b>Author &amp; Date:</b>	R.N. Duff      4 <sup>th</sup> March 2009

**Background:**

At the February 2009 Council the Shire of Williams was requested by Mrs Janette Liddelow for Council to take the following actions

“A call for our Williams shire to take every possible action to help ensure that Genetically Modified (GM) crops are not grown in our region.

We therefore ask our council to make and implement the following resolutions:

- (1) write to the Premier to ask the State Government to use its powers to declare our municipality a GM Free Zone;
- (2) ask the State Government to extend the ban on commercial GM canola”

Further letters were also tabled at the meeting on the same issue.

Council’s resolution at the February 2009 is as below:

***Johnstone/Carne***

That Council send a letter to all electors currently on the Shire of Williams electoral roll asking if they support or not support the following questions:

1. Should the Shire of Williams write to the Premier to ask the State Government to use its powers to declare our municipality a GM Canola Free Zone?
2. Should the Shire of Williams ask the State Government to extend the ban on commercial GM canola in Western Australia?

**Carried 5/3  
Resolution 151/09**

On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2009 the survey was posted out to all electors on the 2007 Shire of Williams Electoral Roll. The survey closed on the 27<sup>th</sup> February 2009. A summary of the results of the survey are as follows:

<b>Summary</b>		
	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>
Yes	223	222
No	83	81
Neither	2	5
	308	308
<b>Response Rate</b>		
Total Surveys		654
Returned to sender		14
		<b>640</b>
Received		308
		<b>308</b>
% Response		48%

A full list of the comments received is provided at **APPENDIX 1**.

***Recommendation:***

For Council’s consideration.

***Cavanagh/Prowse***

That the Shire of Williams write to the Premier to ask the State Government to use its powers to declare that no GM canola be allowed to be grown in our municipality for the next three years.

**Carried 5/2  
Resolution 179/09**

All observers left the meeting at 5.58pm.

<b>Report Reference:</b>	<b>8.1.2</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Local Government Reform Steering Committee - Guidelines</b>
<b>File Reference:</b>	3.3.1
<b>Statutory Reference:</b>	<i>Local Government Act 1995 – Schedule 2.1</i>
<b>Author &amp; Date:</b>	R.N Duff      4 <sup>th</sup> March 2009

**Background:**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM STEERING COMMITTEE**

**Bulletin No 2-2009**

**STRUCTURAL REFORM GUIDELINES TO ASSIST LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM**

The Local Government Reform Steering Committee, established by the Minister for Local Government, Hon John Castrilli MLA, has released Structural Reform Guidelines to assist local governments in responding to the Minister's request in relation to voluntary structural reform. These Guidelines accompany this Bulletin.

The Guidelines set out a recommended decision making process along with key criteria to be considered by local governments in developing their Reform Submission which is to be forwarded to the Minister by **31 August 2009**.

The Guidelines reflect the Minister's view that local governments themselves are best placed to determine their appropriate size, at the local and regional level, to deliver services to their communities in the most efficient and effective manner. Accordingly, the Guidelines do not purport to set out strict parameters from a geographic, population or revenue perspective.

The Guidelines include the following information:

- a time line for the development of Reform Submissions;
- a checklist for local governments to assess their current situation as part of considering the type of reform proposals that should be developed;
- a process for local governments to explore reform partners;
- a process for developing a Reform Submission;
- options for engaging the community; and the required format of a Reform Submission.

The Guidelines recommend a format for developing a Reform Submission which is to include a council resolution of intent in relation to:

- amalgamation proposals;
- the proposed number of elected members,
- details on the appropriate regional grouping of local governments;
- a completed Local Government Reform Checklist; and
- a timeline for implementation of reform.

The Minister has requested that each local government complete and return the Local Government Reform Checklist, included as Attachment 1 in the Guidelines, to the Steering Committee for its information by Thursday **30 April 2009**.

The checklist, based on the key principles for local government reform, targets the capacity gaps of each existing local government which will inform the development of Reform Submissions.

A series of Frequently Asked Questions has also been prepared which provides answers to key questions asked by local governments about how to proceed with reform issues. Local governments will be able to access funding from the Department to assist with costs associated with the use of facilitators and/or consultants to develop their Reform Submissions. The Department will provide further information on the funding available to local governments shortly.

The processes for assessing local government Reform Submissions will be undertaken by the Steering Committee in the first instance, which will provide advice to the Minister on preferred options for reform. Finalised proposals will then be referred to the Local Government Advisory Board for consideration and recommendation. It is anticipated that any structural reform proposals could be in place by **July 2011**. This timeframe would allow for new Councillors to be elected at the **October 2011** elections. However, this will be dependent on specific arrangements and examined on a case by case basis.

The Chief Executive Officer has commenced preparation of the Local Government Reform Checklist. The first draft is attached at **APPENDIX 2 (presented at the meeting)**

Additional information including the Minister's Guidelines provided by the Department of Local Government has been distributed to Councillors by email.

The Chief Executive Officer requires a resolution on Council's stance regarding the voluntary amalgamation issue. Direction should be given on:

- amalgamation proposals,
- the proposed number of elected members,
- details on the appropriate regional grouping of local governments,
- endorsement of the draft Local Government Reform Checklist and
- a timeline for any implementation of reform.

***Recommendation:***

For Council's consideration

**8.1.3 Central Country Zone Bowls Day**

The Central Country Zone Bowls Day is to be held at Quairading Bowling Club on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2009 commencing at 12.30pm.

Councillors are to advise the Deputy CEO by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2009 if they wish to attend the event

**8.1.4 Avon-Midland Country Zone Local Government Association – Conference**

The Avon-Midland Country Zone have arranged a conference dinner for 7.00pm Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2009 in Dalwallinu followed by a conference with several interesting speakers on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2009, see program below:

Avon-Midland Country Zone WA Local Government Association

**CONFERENCE 2009**

**Program**

*(Subject to Change)*

Thursday 26 March 2009  
Dalwallinu Recreation Centre, Oval Room  
Colin Anderson Drive, Dalwallinu

4.00 pm	Zone Annual General Meeting
7.00 pm	Conference Dinner

Friday 27 March 2009  
Dalwallinu Recreation Hall, Oval Room  
Colin Anderson Drive, Dalwallinu

9.00 am	Registration
9.30 am	<b>Conference Welcome</b> Cr David McFarlane, Deputy President Shire of Dalwallinu
9.45 am	<b>Opening &amp; Key Note Address</b> Minister for Local Government, Hon John Castrilli MLA
10.15 am	<b>WA Local Government Association</b> Cr Bill Mitchell, President WA Local Government Association
10.30 am	<b><i>Morning Tea</i></b>
11.00 am	<b>Regional Organisations</b> Tony Brown, Executive Manager, Governance & Strategy, WALGA Jo Burges, Regional Cooperation Manager, WALGA
11.30 am	<b>Royalties for Regions &amp; Country Local Government Fund</b> Ross Weaver, Director Strategies & Legislation, DLGRD
12.00 pm	<b>Integrated Services Arrangements</b> Brian Noble, Director Operational Asset Management, Main Roads WA
12.30 pm	Lunch
1.30 pm	<b>Dalwallinu - A Place of Wheat and Wattle</b> Shire of Dalwallinu
1.45 pm	<b>Local Government Academy</b> John Scott, Managing Director C Y O'Connor College of TAFE
2.00 pm	<b>Value of Community Branding</b> Market Creations
3.00 pm	<b>Close</b> Cr Anita Jarvis, President Avon-Midland Country Zone
	Light Refreshments

The CEO suggested that interested Councillors travel to Dalwallinu on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2009, inspect facilities at several towns on the way, stay overnight in Dalwallinu and attend the conference the next day.

**Meeting Closure**

There being no further business for discussion the President declared the meeting closed at 6.25pm