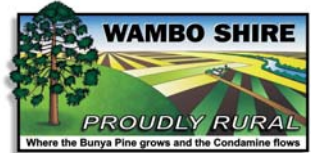


JOINT MEDIA RELEASE



Dalby Town Council/Wambo Shire Council
May 16, 2007

Dalby and Wambo Prepares Submission for LG Reforms

Dalby Town and Wambo Shire Councils have acknowledged the State Government's desire for reform in Queensland local government and its stated preference for fewer local governments. With this in mind, an evaluation was undertaken of possible amalgamation scenarios involving Dalby Town and Wambo Shire using a "triple bottom line" sustainability assessment.

In a jointly prepared submission to the Local Government Reform Commission, local shires propose a merger with Millmerran as well as parts of Jondaryan, Pittsworth and Rosalie to form the new 'Darling Downs Shire Council'.

One mayor and eight councillors would be elected to represent a population of approximately 21,000 with Dalby as the major urban centre within the shire.

Wambo Shire Council Mayor Mick Cosgrove said the proposed boundary changes aimed to deliver an even representation for urban and rural residents.

"Wambo's concern has always been to ensure that the interests of rural people are not overlooked as a result of amalgamation.

"We have worked with Dalby Town Council to prepare a proposal that we believe will best serve the interests of urban and farming communities and offer a positive future for the region."

Dalby Mayor Warwick Geisel said the amalgamation would enable one council to serve the interests of the region's agricultural, mining and energy industries.

"The proposal has the potential to strengthen the region's financial sustainability by improving overall management of the land and its natural resources.

"A larger council will also be in a better financial position to deliver a broader range of facilities and services to the region."

Both Councils acknowledge the significant uncertainty for existing employees created by the Local Government Reform process. Accordingly, both Councils strongly encourage the protection of employment of staff from the affected Councils through legislation.

To view Dalby and Wambo Councils' full submission to the Local Government Reform Commission visit www.dalby.qld.gov.au or www.wambo.qld.gov.au or for further information phone Dalby Town Council's office on 4672 1101 or Wambo Shire Council's office on 4669 9000.

Ends

Media Contacts

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Dalby Mayor
Wambo Mayor

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Photo: Map of the proposed Darling Downs Shire Council

