

Ref: OCR19-30756
File No: CLR-4-5
Contact: Jeremy Edwards

13/09/2019

Mr Mark Warner. Committee Clerk
Select Committee into Local Government
Legislative Council
Parliament House, 4 Harvest Terrace
WEST PERTH WA 6005

By Email: lgi@parliament.wa.gov.au

Dear Mark

RE: Shire of East Pilbara submission for the Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government

The Shire of East Pilbara's submission will support and reiterate the submission put forward by WALGA. In particular, the Shire of East Pilbara would like to make specific reference to the key principles and policy positions as outlined in WALGA's submission.

Key Principles

1. Retain general competence powers

The Shire of East Pilbara supports this principle as outlined in WALGA's submission.

2. Provide flexible, principles-based legislative framework

The Shire of East Pilbara supports this principle as outlined in WALGA's submission. Particularly, the Shire of East Pilbara is keen to see a new Act which allows for innovation and organisational performance. In the East Pilbara we are looking to the future in order to see what our economic footprint will be like once mining is no longer the dominant employer in our towns.



Shire of **EAST
Pilbara**
AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST SHIRE

PMB 22 Newman
Western Australia 6753

Newman

T. (08) 9175 8000

F. (08) 9175 2668

Marble Bar

T. (08) 9176 1008

F. (08) 9176 1073

Nullagine

T. (08) 9176 2063

F. (08) 9176 2063

www.eastpilbara.wa.gov.au

ABN 47 854 334 350



Size and scale compliance regime

The Shire of East Pilbara strongly supports this principle ensuring that the requirements of local governments should be based on their size and scale.

3. Promote enabling legislation that empowers local government to carry out activities beneficial to its community

Currently, the Local Government Act is very prescriptive in what local governments can and can't do. The Shire of East Pilbara supports the principle that local governments should have the opportunity to carry out a variety of activities should it wish to, including those related to economic development, environmental protection and social advancement.

4. Avoid red tape and de-clutter the extensive regulatory regime that underpins the Local Government Act

The same legislative requirements are put on all local governments, irrespective of their size and make-up. This makes it particularly difficult for regional and smaller local governments who don't always have the same resourcing capabilities as the larger metro councils, but are still required to meet the same legislative requirements.

5. The State Government must not assign legislative responsibilities to Local Governments unless there is provision for resources required to fulfil the responsibilities

This is particularly true for regional and smaller local governments who don't have the same resources available as the metro councils.

In addition, the Shire of East Pilbara would like to highlight the breadth and depth of services that remote local governments need to provide. By way of example, the Shire of East Pilbara manages a regional airport with over 300,000 passenger movements per year. We also manage and operate a waste water treatment plant for the entire town site of Newman servicing a population of over 6000 people. A blanket approach to service provision within the sector or an emphasis on local governments concentrating on roads, rates and rubbish is simply not reflective of the complex nature of the sector or the community expectations of our communities in 2019.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me on
(08) 9175 8000 or by email at ceo@eastpilbara.wa.gov.au

Yours sincerely

Jeremy Edwards
Chief Executive Officer