



# Tony Simpson MLA

## Member for Darling Range

21 February 2013

## STATEMENT

I recently made some remarks at a local forum that the Liberal Party supported forced council amalgamations. The Liberal Party does not support forced amalgamations, I got it wrong, it was my mistake. I apologise for the confusion this has created.

For further reference, the Liberal Party's position is as follows:

- Western Australia has the second highest number of local councils in Australia, with 138 different councils. There are 36 councils with less than 1,000 residents and some that cover areas less than 10sqkm
- The Liberal Party believes 138 councils is too many and that ratepayers would get a better level of service and value for money with fewer but stronger, more efficiently managed councils
- A report on the future of local government in Perth (the 'Robson Review') has recommended a reduction in the numbers of local governments in the Perth metropolitan area from 30 to 12
- Premier Colin Barnett is on the record as stating somewhere in the range of 15 to 20 in the Perth metropolitan area would be about right
- A Liberal Government will not bring in legislation for widespread amalgamations of local councils (as happened in Victoria and Queensland)
- This is about trying to have a relevant system of local government that suits this century and is better placed to meet the needs of the city's rapidly-expanding population
- The Robson report has been released for public consultation until April 2013

**ends**