



# Rosalie Shire Council

*The Bridge between the Darling Downs and South Burnett*

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **“Doing the right thing – and beaten up for the trouble”**

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“We’re devastated! This is a sad day for Local Government in Queensland!” were the words used by Cr Noel Strohfeld when referring to the announcement by the State Government that they were going to introduce a Local Government Reform Commission to change local government boundaries in Queensland.

“Rosalie and Crows Nest Shires have been voluntarily working through the Size, Shape and Sustainability process for almost a year now,” Cr Strohfeld said. “We have, in fact, virtually completed the process and are due to meet on Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> April to consider the Final Report from our INDEPENDENT Review Facilitator Noel Playford.”

“It needs to be remembered that this has been a process endorsed and financed (partially) by the State Government. We’re almost finished and they go and change the game. People in Local Government and in the general Rosalie community must be asking themselves how they can trust this Government again because the truth is they probably cannot.”

“Only a couple of weeks ago the then Acting Premier, Anna Bligh, at the opening of Stage 2 of the New Acland Coal Mine, praised Rosalie and Crows Nest Shire Councils on the work we were doing through the SSS process. In fact, she told us we had the “full support of the State Government in what you are doing.” That support seems to have evaporated and our residents are now totally disenfranchised by this action. Residents from the two shires have been ringing me wanting to know when the referendum will take place. I’m left with the job of telling them the vote will now not happen and that is not fair.” Cr Strohfeld said.

“Our two Councils led the State in moving through SSS and now to be pulled back from the finishing line is really unfair. The community and staff of Rosalie Shire have been harshly and unjustly treated by this Government and are understandably hurt and upset. Their basic democratic right of self determination has been jumped on and ground into the dirt.” Cr Strohfeld said.

“If there was any justice in George Street, Rosalie and Crows Nest would be allowed to finalise the project and then move forward with the decision. We brought our communities along the road of change, always intending to allow

them to have their say. It appears they do not have that option now. What a waste of time, effort and money!!!"

"Northern Downs Shire Council would have been a sustainable Council. It has size, development, stability and support. Now it has no support (from State Government), an unknown future and lots of discontented people." Cr Strohfeld went on to say.

"This new "chapter" of Local Government Reform has obviously been in the design stages for some time now so local government in Queensland has just been led along by the Minister and Premier and allowed to waste money while they developed their grand plan. That's not very logical or accountable. In fact, it should be referred to the Queensland Audit Office to be investigated as a disgusting and unnecessary waste of public money. "

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