

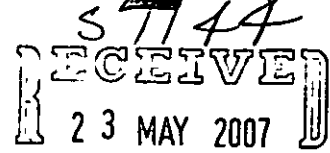
# KILKIVAN SHIRE COUNCIL

ABN. 37 675 024 880

RCC/rcc



23<sup>rd</sup> May 2007



BY:.....

Commissioners  
Local Government Reform Commission  
PO Box 16325  
CITY EAST QLD 4002

Dear Sir or Madam

## Local Government Reform Program

With reference to your call for suggestions, please find this Council's detailed suggestions, which provide further information on the following:

1. If the Shire MUST be amalgamated then the whole Shire should go to the east
2. New local government area to be undivided or large multi-member divisions
3. 3 classes of local governments ie City; Town & Shire
4. New local government to be named "Gympie Town Council"
5. As FAGS are to be maintained for 4 years, then there should not be any staff redundancies, except the CEO, for 2 years

Should you require any further information, please contact the undersigned.

Yours faithfully



Ray C. Currie PSM  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

*Shire of Kilkivan*



# *Local Government Reform Suggestion*

*May 2007*

*Shire of Kilkivan*

## ***SHIRE of KILKIVAN***

### ***SUBMISSION TO***

## ***LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM COMMISSION***

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.**

This summary is provided in dot points for ease of reading, while the following submission provides the full details:

1. If the Shire MUST be amalgamated then the whole Shire should go to the east
2. New local government area to be undivided or large multi-member divisions
3. 3 classes of local governments ie City; Town & Shire
4. New local government to be named "Gympie Town Council"
5. As FAGS are to be maintained for 4 years, then there should not be any staff redundancies, except the CEO, for 2 years

### **Statement**

Kilkivan Shire Council supports the initiative of the State Government to fast track a resolution of the Size, Shape and Sustainability (SSS) project. Whilst the initial concept of SSS was supported the time frame of its roll-out was of concern.

One of the problems identified in SSS is that no time frame for completion was identified and more importantly, no scope for sustainability was identified. This is also a major concern in this latest government initiative in that there is no indication as to what is a sustainable Local Government area, ie, how many Councils, what population size etc?

Whilst Kilkivan Shire was identified in the QTC report as weak and neutral, it is the opinion of Council that the Shire was on a firm footing being one of the few Councils in Queensland that are debt free. Councils' preference is for this Shire to remain as a stand-alone entity with perhaps some minor boundary alterations that would extend its size.

## *Shire of Kilkivan*

There is still considerable vagueness in the discussion paper to make it extremely difficult for current Councils to articulate a position that is in the best interests of the residents.

Council is concerned that any forced amalgamation will be of such a major change that "local" will be removed from local government.

### **Background**

The Shire of Kilkivan has been in existence since 1888 and came into existence by amalgamating part of Widgee and Nanango Divisional Boards and extended from the Bruce Highway to near Kingaroy. Over this period of time Murgon and Wondai Shires were formed out of Kilkivan Shire. It appears ironic that the State Government is now investigating developing Shires of this capacity.

Council has conducted six "met the residents" nights in the various halls in the Shire and this submission is based on the majority wishes identified at these meetings. The "met the residents" achieved an attendance figure of 235 people and is an indication of how the residents of this Shire feel let down by this exercise in stealth and lack of direction on what is to be achieved. The unanimous view to come out of these meetings is that the Shire of Kilkivan should not be amalgamated with any other Shire.

During the community "met the residents" sessions, our community were particularly concerned with the loss of local knowledge, and also any potential loss of the currently operated CACP & MPC health services, as there is not any health services provided to this Shire. The ability of Kilkivan residents to use the current QGAP agency in the Council office is also of concern.

Residents of the Shire highlighted those aspects of what Council does to enhance life in the Shire as identified in Schedule 1 (attached).

Most Council offices also provide a significant number of JP's for the local community to use, and any loss of these officers would be a blow to these rural/regional communities.

## *Shire of Kilkivan*

### **Discussion**

As stated previously this Council prefers to remain as a stand-alone Council so that residents of the Shire have close access to their local government. With the preferred position stated the remainder of this paper will discuss the way ahead for the Shire of Kilkivan so that residents achieve the best outcome.

Council believes that the options open to residents of the Shire of Kilkivan are three, in addition to no amalgamation and are as follows:

1. Shire is divided along the Kinbombi Range and one half goes east and the other half goes west.
2. Whole of Shire amalgamate with Shire/Shires to the East
3. Whole of Shire amalgamate with Shire/Shires to the West

### **Option 1.**

It is the belief of the Council and the majority of residents of the Shire of Kilkivan that the splitting of the Shire as identified in 1. above is not conducive to good governance. The preference is for the Shire at this point in time to be drafted as a whole Shire with minor boundary changes being achieved in the next four years of the new Council and prior to any election in 2012. There will be no further discussions of this option.

### **Option 2.**

Amalgamation with Shire/Shires to the east retains the Shire of Kilkivan within the Mary River catchment area. The issue of the whole of Shire in the Mary River catchment recognises the fact that the township of Goomeri has its water supply provided by Kinbombi Creek that feeds into the Mary River.

### **Advantages.**

Movement to an amalgamation to the east recognises the centre of interest for the Shire with, Gympie, the major provider for shopping, medical and in the main, education to complete high school. It also provides the Shire with economy of scale as Cooloola Shire has a population of 38,000. The amalgamation of a very strong Shire in the QTC report and Kilkivan should be beneficial for the residents of Kilkivan Shire. It also retains Kilkivan Shire in the Mary River catchment and is in the same federal electorate. Council already shares services in the area of weed control with the Shires of Cooloola and Tiaro.

## *Shire of Kilkivan*

### Disadvantages.

The disadvantage of this is that amalgamation with the current Cooloola Shire places Goomeri at the extreme end of a very large Shire. It is recognised that Goomeri or Kilkivan are going to be a long way from the centre of any newly amalgamated Shire and this has its own constraints. Placement with Cooloola Shire is across state electoral boundaries and Main Road districts. It also places the Shire in different medical districts. Amalgamation with Shires to the east could include Cooloola, and elements of Tiaro Shire.

It is therefore a preference for Cooloola and Kilkivan Shires to amalgamate to form the new Shire of Gympie. The suggested new name for this amalgamated Shire recognises a geographical fact, is easy to market and is known by people outside of the area. Broad recognition is difficult with names like Cooloola whilst the name of Gympie gives people an Australian wide recognition factor.

### **Option 3.**

Amalgamation with Shires to the west needs to be looked at from two perspective's being:

- an amalgamation of all Shires of the South Burnett
- an amalgamation of three Shires, Kilkivan, Murgon and Wondai

An amalgamation of Shires in the South Burnett. This would necessitate the amalgamation of Cherbourg, Kilkivan, Kingaroy, Murgon, Nanango and Wondai and is the area covered by discussions under the SSS umbrella. The six Shires have previously worked as a loose grouping of Shires under the South Burnett Local Government Association (SBLGA) and have achieved some agreement in shared service arrangements. Shared services have been achieved in the area of garbage collection with three Councils participating, shared occupational health and safety employee, shared tourism officer, development of a common development plan for five of the Shires. With additional good will and a recognised need to share services for economic sustainability future shared arrangements are an obvious outcome.

The South Burnett have historically had a close relationship that stemmed from their sporting connections, but even these connections are breaking down with the Goomeri cricket club now playing in the Gympie competition.

## *Shire of Kilkivan*

### Advantage.

The amalgamation of these Shires gives economy of scale in number of residents, reduces the number of Councillors, and reduces the number of senior staff, which theoretically should give a reduction in salary costs. Further savings could be achieved by the reduction of plant and equipment although this could be superficial, as the distances for operation are extensive.

### Disadvantage.

The area achieved by this super aggregation would lead to a reduction in Councillor local knowledge with a loss of voter confidence. Kilkivan as a significant settlement area in this amalgamation would be placed on the extremity of the area if Kingaroy were seen as the centre of the local government. Kingaroy as the largest town in the amalgamated area is not geographically centred and would place stress on any large grouping. The area of interest for the majority of residents of the Shire of Kilkivan is Gympie for retail, medical, school and medical.

### Amalgamation of Kilkivan, Wondai and Murgon.

This proposal is being supported by Murgon Shire and is seen by Murgon Shire as an opportunity to create a larger rate base to support what they consider to be the regional centre of Murgon.

### Advantage.

The area is smaller and will achieve reasonable representation of residents.

### Negative.

There is little to be achieved by amalgamating two weak Shires and a distressed Shire as identified by the QTC report.

## **Classes of Councils**

Because of the difficulties with reporting requirements over the years, we believe that consideration could be given to providing for the following classes of Councils. Bearing in mind that Management standards will differ, Local Government must still maintain a high level of governance:

City Councils for populations over 100,000

Town Councils for a population over 5,000 and under 100,000

Shire Councils for populations under 5,000 and most likely west of the Ranges

## *Shire of Kilkivan*

### **Divided or Undivided Shire**

Since Kilkivan Shire became undivided several elections ago the overall shire considerations have been more equitable, based on looking at the whole Shire and not just their individual division.

We believe that the amalgamated Shire should be undivided, or because of the large population (most likely nearly 50,000) consideration could be given to having several large multi-member divisions.

### **Service Areas**

For many years Local Government has complained that the State Government has removed services from rural / regional Queensland, and we must ensure that this process does not do the same under the guise of economic rationalism. Service centres manned by a senior staff member and support staff must be maintained in all the Towns. Kilkivan Shire currently has a senior staff member work in outlying areas for a period each week to provide service to its community.

In view of the stated fact that the FAGS allocations will be at least maintained for amalgamated councils for a period of 4 years, then there should not be any redundancies of staff (except for the CEO) for a period of 2 years. Any reduction in staff numbers during this 2-year period should only be by natural attrition (voluntary resignations).

## *Shire of Kilkivan*

### **Summary.**


After an extensive community consultation the majority preference is for the Shire of Kilkivan to not be amalgamated with any other Shire.

As a fall back position the majority of residents indicate a preference for being retained as a whole Shire and amalgamating with the current Cooloola Shire. Whilst a minority see amalgamation with Shires in the South Burnett and that is where the Shire of Kilkivan was doing its SSS review, the obvious centre of interest lies with Cooloola Shire in retail, medical, education and community interest.

If the Shire of Kilkivan is to be amalgamated with the current Cooloola Shire then the opportunity should be taken to realign the name of the Shire. A distinct preference is for the amalgamated Shire to be named Gympie Shire after the primary township in the new Shire. Gympie Shire is readily identified, is easily marketed in tourism related aspects and does not suffer from an amalgam name that is not understood by people outside of the area.

  
Cr Ron Dyne  
SHIRE MAYOR

23<sup>rd</sup> May 2007

  
Ray C. Currie PSM  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

## Shire of Kilkivan

### Schedule A

# SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED BY COUNCIL

23<sup>rd</sup> May 2007

\* *internal service only*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Governance   | 43. * <i>Financial Management</i>                    |
| 2. Forward Strategic Planning                           | 44. Charges (Fee for Service)                        |
| 3. Animal Control                                       | 45. * <i>Investments</i>                             |
| 4. Pound operation                                      | 46. * <i>Statutory and Management Reporting</i>      |
| 5. Animal Impounding                                    | 47. Property Services & Rating                       |
| 6. Road Design  | 48. * <i>Payroll operation</i>                       |
| 7. Road Construction                                    | 49. * <i>Creditors</i>                               |
| 8. Road Maintenance                                     | 50. * <i>Debtors</i>                                 |
| 9. * <i>Bridge Design</i>                               | 51. * <i>Inventory Control</i>                       |
| 10. Bridge Construction                                 | 52. * <i>Plant Fleet purchases</i>                   |
| 11. Bridge Maintenance                                  | 53. * <i>Plant Fleet O &amp; M</i>                   |
| 12. Drainage  | 54. Building Ownership                               |
| 13. * <i>Traffic Control</i>                            | 55. * <i>Building Design &amp; Construction</i>      |
| 14. Footpaths   | 56. Building Maintenance                             |
| 15. Cycle Paths   | 57. * <i>IT Services – purchases &amp; operation</i> |
| 16. Street Lighting                                     | 58. * <i>Records management</i>                      |
| 17. Town Planning Scheme                                | 59. * <i>Archive management</i>                      |
| 18. Development control and approval                    | 60. Community Health Centres                         |
| 19. Building certification                              | 61. * <i>Pensioner Unit construction</i>             |
| 20. Plumbing approvals                                  | 62. Pensioner Units O & M                            |
| 21. * <i>Park &amp; Sporting Fac design &amp; const</i> | 63. Aged Care Packages                               |
| 22. Park & Sporting Facilities O & M                    | 64. Centrelink Agency                                |
| 23. * <i>Swimming Pools O &amp; M</i>                   | 65. Government Service (QGAP) Agency                 |
| 24. Health Inspection and Licensing                     | 66. * <i>Tourism Promotion</i>                       |
| 25. Cafe licensing                                      | 67. Disaster Management                              |
| 26. Stables licensing in Towns                          | 68. Rural Fire Service support                       |
| 27. Advertising Signage Control                         | 69. Public Housing operation                         |
| 28. Mosquito Control                                    | 70. Public Halls operation                           |
| 29. Weed and Pest Management                            | 71. Show Grounds operation                           |
| 30. Refuse Collection                                   | 72. * <i>Cemetery management</i>                     |
| 31. Waste Management Disposal                           | 73. Cemetery operation                               |
| 32. Library Services                                    | 74. Gates & Grids Licensing                          |
| 33. Cultural Centres                                    | 75. Natural Resource Management                      |
| 34. Civic / Ceremonial Role                             | 76. * <i>Asset Management</i>                        |
| 35. Legislation Role (Local Laws)                       | 77. * <i>Land Development</i>                        |
| 36. * <i>Water Supply – Treatment</i>                   | 78. Private works                                    |
| 37. Water Supply – Reticulation                         | 79. * <i>HR management</i>                           |
| 38. Water Supply Storage                                | 80. * <i>Special Events</i>                          |
| 39. Sewerage reticulation                               | 81. Arts & Culture                                   |
| 40. Sewerage treatment                                  | 82. Museums & History preservation                   |
| 41. Support for the Community – Grants                  | 83. Public Conveniences                              |
| 42. Facilitation of Projects                            | 84. Public Weighbridge                               |