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Local government reform begins.[View this email in your browser](#)**Media
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Local government reform welcome

"The Committee for Perth welcomes [today's announcement](#) by the Premier and Local Government Minister to reduce the number of local governments in the metropolitan area from 30 to 14. Local government plays a very important role as the level of government closest to the community but the system wasn't consistently delivering the services ratepayers needed or deserved across the region," said Committee for Perth CEO Marion Fulker.

"The local government structures are more than 100 years old and these changes are long overdue. Smaller councils don't have the ability to deal with the 21st century challenges that Perth is facing such as housing density and diversity, urban sprawl, social inequity and an ageing population. Having major local government centres should lead to better collaborative planning, decision making, service delivery and overall economic efficiencies.

"A report the Committee for Perth released last year, [Towards a Bright Future](#), identified that one of the biggest changes we need is to reduce the number of local governments. In the long-term ratepayers will benefit because the larger councils will not only deliver services more efficiently but there will be a reduction in the parochial issues and competition between local authorities that have historically hindered economic development.

"The Metropolitan Local Government review panel led by Professor Alan Robson recommended having 12 local governments in the metropolitan area, so it's pleasing that today's announcement comes close to that number.

"The report also suggested the development of an overarching vision for Perth by the State Government, working in conjunction with local government, stakeholders and community groups. The Committee strongly supports the need for an [overarching vision](#) so that we don't continue to take an incremental and fragmented approach to handling Perth's growth.

"What's important now is how the transition arrangements over the next two years are handled. Local governments need to ensure that they still continue to deliver all of their services, while also working towards merging seamlessly with the support of the State Government."

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The Committee for Perth has advocated for the need for metropolitan local government reform since our inception. [Read more](#) about our activity in this area.

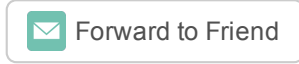
Our consistent advocacy in this area would not have been possible without the investment of our

members who make an enduring contribution to ensuring Perth is a great region in which to live, work and invest.

We particularly acknowledge our Foundation Members:



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