

**Subject:**  
**Date:**

LG Review  
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To members Local Government Review Board

I have read the Stage 2 report and congratulate the Board on the report and the recommendations contained.

A substantial amount of hard work and consultation has been done.

However, the Board will be judged on whether any recommendations for reform of the Local Government sector actually occur. It is this process that must be exercising the Board and those who believe (as I do), that reform is long overdue.

The fractured history of attempts at reform is, I am sure, well known to members of the Board, but may not be to those who read the submissions.

It is now 30 years since the number of Councils was reduced from 46 to 29.

And there is agreement (Tiley et al), that this reform process was successful and had community support.

It is worth looking at the role and influence of the State Government at that time. In 1991 they set up a local government advisory board (LGAB), which was given 2 years to complete an inquiry into the 'modernisation of local government' and report to the Minister. The LGAB, in the same way as the current Board, consulted with elected members, all municipalities, council staff and communities.

Now I come to what I believe is the crucial component of the reform process, the role of the State Government. Throughout the consultation and reform process from 1991-1993, the State Government demonstrated a continuing commitment to local government, whilst making clear that amalgamations were expected. They facilitated vital local ownership which assisted acceptance and success of the reform process. They also provided funds for transition costs, established equal state and local government transition committees, representing each amalgamated council.

So there is a way forward that does not involve 'forced' amalgamations.

I appreciate that the proposals in the stage 2 report deal with 'regional' councils.

However, whatever the hoped for outcome, the State Government has to be seen to be providing leadership and strong support for the process and its implementation.

Graham Bury

Dr R G Bury

Mayor Kingborough Council 2005- 2014