

Question on Notice
No. 937
Asked on 26 May 2006

Mr HOBBS asked the Premier (Mr Beattie) -

QUESTION:

With reference to the widely disseminated reports which are causing serious concern amongst 125 local governments, 15 Aboriginal shire councils, and 17 Island councils in Queensland in relation to council amalgamations—

Will he confirm or deny that he has plans to reduce the total number of Queensland local governments by amalgamation?

ANSWER:

Whilst I am not aware of the widely disseminated reports referred to, I will confirm that there is no proposal by the Government to force a reduction in the total number of Queensland local governments by amalgamation.

The State Government's position is that reviews to change external local government boundaries will not be initiated without the agreement of the affected local governments.

Nevertheless, it is important that local governments operate effectively and can meet the future needs of Queensland communities. Accordingly, the Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation and the Local Government Association of Queensland are working together on the Size, Shape and Sustainability Project which provides local governments with comprehensive processes through which they can review and assess options for the future.

In particular, the Project is encouraging groups of local governments to voluntarily consider regional issues affecting their communities and to consider options, including boundary changes, which would improve governance and service delivery to their communities.

The State Government is supporting this process by making available \$25 million over five years through the Regional Collaboration and Capacity Building Program to assist local governments to undertake the Project reviews.