

Foundations for a successful amalgamation

Fresh start!

Disclaimer!

- Amalgamation agnostic
- Holistic approach ... successful, resilient communities

“All great changes are preceded by chaos.”
(Deepak Chopra)

Key points

- Structured approach
 - *Deciding*
- Seven lessons
 - *Fresh start*

Structured approach

- Four stages
 - Deciding
 - Planning
 - Implementing
 - Monitoring and evaluating

Deciding

- Clear rationale
- Communities of interest
- Form follows function
- Stakeholder engagement
- Partnership approach

Deciding

- Past - efficiency, cost savings and rate reductions
- Now – efficiency, strategic capacity, regional priorities, “seat at the table”
- Arguments against – loss of community connection, remoteness, job losses, local economic impacts

Where to start?

- Start at regional level and work up or down

Seven lessons

- Partnering approach
- 'Fresh start'
- Stakeholder involvement
- Sound planning and implementation
- Removal of barriers and addition of incentives
- Transitional arrangements for elected representation
- Independent monitoring and evaluation

Fresh start

- More than status quo in a bigger organisation
- New strategies, policies, approaches
- Clarity of roles (size of government)
- Requires visionary leadership
- Manage as a region, respect local differences
- External support

Conclusion

- Amalgamation is one potential outcome of a holistic approach to determining what is best to build successful, resilient communities
- Structured approach
- Fresh start