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Submission: The possible forced amalgamation of our Councils by the Baird Government into mega councils is an extreme form of sharing services where all activities of a group of councils is centralised into a new massive administrative body.

There is no evidence that centralising all local council activities in a single mega-council produces cost efficiency or any savings. The most efficient and effective path for local government is to...Share and outsource those activities and keep councils small or downsize them for activities to keep local issues local.

Based on the population of Australia, Councils are already very large compared to world standards but, based on spending to GDP Australian Councils are the poorest in the developed world.

In the long run, amalgamating councils will not save money as wages and provisions would have to be adjusted up in line with the larger and stronger partner. Also there are many other costly factors that need to be factored into any transition resulting in rate increases.

Although amalgamations have occurred in all states in the past except WA, it has never solved the key problems of local government, namely; Prolonged under-funding of essential infrastructure assets, dysfunctional planning and the development approval processes.

WA councils' amalgamations were planned by Western Australian State Liberal Government were six years in the making and it has now been dismantled and power returned to the people. The WA Government was trying to cut the number of metropolitan councils from 30 to 16 as part of a policy of making an overhaul in the Local Government sector.

The WA Local Government Association (WALGA) withdrew its support for the reforms from public pressure and after poll results listed a massive rejection of amalgamation plans.

One can only assume that the Baird Governments agenda to amalgamate councils is to take absolute control of local government with a lot less people to answer for and swamp the local government elections with Liberal candidates of a single authority using preference swapping deals to lock out any opposition.

To say Local Government is losing \$1mil. per day is ludicrous when it is easy for the states to reach into your pockets when they run short of cash as they don't have to be accountable to anyone; only themselves and their own organisations.

Remember the closest form of government for the people is Local Government, don't allow the Baird Government to stop it.