

JOONDALUP
BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

To Represent, Inform and Assist Small to Medium Business to enable Growth and Prosperity

21 April 2010

Hon John Castrilli MLA
Minister for Local Government
12th Floor, Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005

COPY

Dear Minister

COMPETITION - LOCAL GOVERNMENT/ SMALL BUSINESS

It has come to the attention of the Joondalup Business Association that recently appointed President of the Western Australian Local Government Association Troy Pickard is to push for changes to the Local Government Act that would allow local Councils to set up business enterprises to provide paid services to the wider community.

This is a serious matter and the JBA in particular is very concerned about the impact such a plan would have on the viability of many small businesses.

As a previous business operator you would be aware that it is difficult enough trying to run a small business successfully, and provide employment, given the already added burden of red tape and unfair taxes.

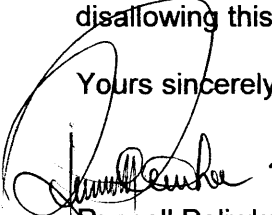
Owner / operators are aghast at the thought that their rates might be used to fund local government business enterprises that would actively compete against them.

The JBA believes such a proposal is extremely unfair as Government agencies don't pay taxes or rates and can't go broke unlike any small business that has to contend with everyday competition.

We also firmly believe in free enterprise and open competition however it is critical for regulators to ensure that the rules are fair and best practice is applied in maintaining a level playing field which would not be the case if this proposal is adopted.

The JBA strongly opposes any such move and we seek your support and commitment to disallowing this very unfair proposal.

Yours sincerely



Russell Poliwka
President

c.c. Minister for Commerce
Shadow Minister for Small Business
CoSBA
Wanneroo Business Association
Stirling Business Association



**COMBINED SMALL
BUSINESS ALLIANCE
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC.**

10 May 2010

Hon John Castrilli MLA
Minister for Local Government
Parliament House
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Re: Competition – Local Government/Small Business

We refer to the letter to you from the Wanneroo Business Association dated 21 April 2010 (copy attached), expressing concern at the push by the President of the WA Local Government Association (WALGA) to amend the *Local Government Act* in order permit local Councils to set business enterprises that would compete with local businesses.

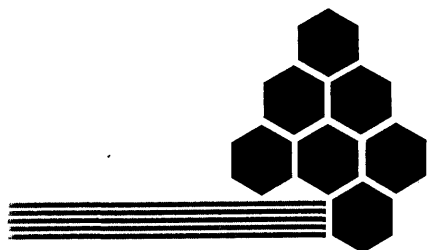
CoSBA wishes to convey to you our total and unequivocal support for the concern of the Wanneroo Business Association. Whilst CoSBA does support the role by all levels of Government in providing support for the establishment and development of small business, for such a law to be enacted by your Government, which professes a policy of 'small government', would be a reprehensible act of betrayal of business, in particular small business.

Accordingly, we seek your support and the support of your Government in rejecting this push to legislate to facilitate Local Government to establish commercial businesses.

Yours faithfully
**Combined Small Business Alliance
of Western Australia Inc. (CoSBA)**

OLIVER MOON
Chief Executive Officer

cc Premier; Minister for Commerce; Leader of the Opposition; Shadow Minister for Small Business; Wanneroo Business Association; Stirling Business Association.



**COMBINED SMALL
BUSINESS ALLIANCE
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC.**

12 May 2010

Hon Colin Barnett MLA
Premier of Western Australia
Parliament House
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Premier

Re: Minister for Small Business?

With the demise of the former "Minister for Small Business" and your appointment of Bill Marmion to the portfolios of Commerce; Science and Innovation; and Housing and Works, there has been no mention in the media, that we are aware of, that indicates that he has been appointed Minister for Small Business.

Our concern is further evidenced by a list of State government Ministerial Offices dated 28 April 2010 that was published in the *West Australian* on Saturday 8 May 2010 that makes no mention of any Minister holding the portfolio of Minister for Small Business.

Is it now the case that there is no Minister for Small Business? Is this indicative of your Government's attitude towards small business, reflected in a perceived policy of a flat earth, 'one size fits all', in the words of Troy Buswell, "business is business"? And, that, the needs and aspirations of small business are represented by CCIWA? Is this not another kick in the guts for small business delivered by your Government?

Could you please advise on the concerns we have expressed above, and in particular your Government's support for the needs and aspirations of small business, and how that is to be represented by your Government.

Yours faithfully

**Combined Small Business Alliance
of Western Australia Inc. (CoSBA)**

**OLIVER MOON
Chief Executive Officer**

cc: Minister for Regional Development, Assisting Minister for State Development;
Shadow Minister for Small Business.