



**TOWN OF VINCENT**

***MEDIA RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

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***Battle Lines Are Drawn:  
Hands Off Vincent!***

The Town of Vincent has vowed to vigorously fight the Perth City Council on its bid to annex a part of Vincent.

"This morning we wake to read the paper and discover that our neighbours have decided to declare battle lines and try to steal a large chunk of our Town. They haven't had the courtesy to talk to us about any of their plans and instead launch what is no doubt a very poorly conceived attack on the Vincent community," declared Mayor Nick Catania.

"They tried unsuccessfully to get their hands on a bit of our Town three years ago. This was met with fierce antagonism by the community and was rejected by the then-Minister for Local Government who recognised that granting such boundary realignment would be highly detrimental to Vincent," continued Mayor Catania.

"The fact is that the PCC was restructured in 1994 because it was not capable of managing all the competing needs of the CBD, which is skewed almost entirely towards business, tourism and commerce, and the residents of inner city suburbs who for many years had been left out in the cold with little representation, dismal support and run-down facilities," recalled Mayor Catania.

The Town submitted its Local Government Structural Reform Checklist to the Department of Local Government on 30 April 2009 and received a Category No.1 ranking – there is existing organisational and financial capacity to meet current and future community needs – and therefore is sustainable in its current form.

The PCC's proposal to realign its boundaries by annexing part of south Vincent was rejected by the Local Government Advisory Board and then-Minister for Local Government in February 2007 on the basis of community opposition and matters affecting the viability of local governments – which are the fundamentals underpinning any restructure proposal. The proposal would have taken 4,000 residents, 14% of Vincent's area, \$3-4million in rates and a number of major assets from the Town.

"Last time they took us on they lost. In fact Vincent put forth a very good argument to realign its boundaries and secured parts of West Perth and East Perth – both areas which had been sorely neglected by the PCC for many, many years as they concentrated on the heart of the CBD and the marketing of the City of Perth as a destination. Which is precisely what a capital city should be focussed on – business, entertainment and tourism. The needs of residents are very different to the needs of big business and the increasing popularity of inner city living needs to be given priority in terms of resident amenity and small business support", continued Mayor Catania.

"The PCC had to lick its wounds last time they took us on – I have no doubt they'll suffer the same fate again as any argument they present to diminish Vincent will be countered by logical argument based on sound principles for sustainability and the long-term needs of the community. The Town has not as yet finalised its submission on Local Government Reform, but the actions of our neighbours in basically declaring war may well influence the submission we make. We have never shied away from a fight before and when our close-knit community is under threat we won't back down, roll over and die. So they best prepare for a fight!" promised Mayor Catania.

**Ends**

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