**Robin Chapple MLC**

Member for the Mining and Pastoral Region

MEDIA RELEASE

**Latest Local Government Proposal Completely Undemocratic**

Thursday, October 23

Greens Member for the Mining and Pastoral Region Robin Chapple MLC has expressed outrage that the state government plan to amalgamate councils via ‘boundary adjustments’ thereby avoiding the Dadour poll provisions.

Mr Chapple said that the government had to search for legislative loopholes in order to force local government amalgamations was proof the measures weren’t wholly supported.

“These provisions are there for a reason and that is so residents get a say,” he said.

“By labelling the amalgamations ‘boundary adjustments’ to one council whilst dismissing another amounts to the same thing yet removes the obligation to consult residents.

“It is completely undemocratic and I really feel for those communities I know are opposed.

“The premier will stop at nothing to get his way, even if it means resorting to authoritarian measures.”

Mr Chapple said for a council itself to accept a proposed amalgamation was not enough to legitimise the process.

“Ultimately this is about consultation with residents and working out the best scenario for everyone involved,” he said.

“I have my doubts about why this government really wants these amalgamations to go ahead, but I’m certain they’re not in all residents interests.”

**For more information please contact Robin Chapple on 0409 379 263 or 9486 8255**