# LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW JOURNAL

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Droughts, floods and South East Queensland water reform - Michael Walton	
By 2007 South East Queensland was facing serious drought conditions. The combined South East Queensland dam capacity had dropped to below 20% and South East Queenslanders were experiencing Level 6 (extreme water restrictions). The drought evidenced serious systemic weaknesses in the institutional arrangements for water supply in South East Queensland. This led the Queensland government to undertake substantial water reform. The purpose of this article is to provide background to the water reforms, a summary of the reforms and details of the "last minute" changes to the proposal for a single distribution entity owned and run by the 10 South East Queensland local governments.	46
<b>Local government reform in Western Australia: Amalgamation</b> – Mark Gregory, Lee Rossetto and Stephen Willey	
Local government reform is an issue which is germane across Australian States and Territories. In Western Australia the newly-elected Coalition Government is encouraging local governments to consider voluntary amalgamations as means of achieving reform. Forced amalgamations have not been ruled out if voluntary amalgamations do not deliver the requisite reform. This article examines the forces driving the reform agenda, explains the law as it relates to local government amalgamations and explores the range of issues that must be considered if amalgamations are to be entertained and progressed	55

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  - <sup>1</sup> Hayton D, "Unique Rules for the Unique Institution, The Trust" in Degeling S and Edelman J (eds), *Equity in Commercial Law* (Lawbook Co, Sydney, 2005) p 284.
  - <sup>2</sup> Hayton, n 1, p 286.
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  - <sup>3</sup> Trindade R and Smith R, "Modernising Australian Merger Analysis" (2007) 35 ABLR 358.
  - <sup>4</sup> Trindade and Smith, n 3 at 358-359.
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