

Mergers get chop

■ Daniel Emerson

The State Government's back-down on forced council mergers is official after it moved to rescind governor's orders that would have created new boundaries from July 1.

An 18-month reform process to halve the number of metropolitan councils collapsed last month after ratepayers in East Fremantle, Cockburn, Kwinana, Victoria Park and South Perth vetoed amalgamations.

After the vote, Premier Colin Barnett abandoned the reform but orders giving effect to mergers between a host of other councils had already been signed.

The "boundary adjustments" included joining Mundaring and Swan, Bayswater and Bassendean, Belmont and Kalamunda, Cambridge and Subiaco, and Gosnells and Canning, splitting Serpentine-Jarrahdale between Armadale and Murray, and redrawing Melville.

Work is continuing on a City of Perth Act to move key assets such as Kings Park and University of WA into the capital city.