

Future of Local Government Review Newsletter (issue 1)

April 2022

More information?
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The Tasmanian Government has commissioned the Local Government Board to undertake a broad review into the future of local government in Tasmania. The review will look at the fundamentals of the local government system: the role it should play in supporting communities, the services it should be delivering, and the most effective ways of doing so.

This is the first in a series of newsletters which will provide periodic updates on the Local Government Board's [Future of Local Government in Tasmania Review](#). These newsletters will also provide updates and information on key engagement opportunities to ensure you understand how to have your say on local government in Tasmania.

It has been a busy two months since the Review commenced in January 2022, with [Stage 1](#) now well underway. Here's a snapshot of what matters to you:

NEW WEBSITE PUBLICATIONS

- Stage 1 of the Review focusses on community engagement, research and fact-finding. As part of this process, the Board identified the need to understand how local government began in Tasmania and how it has evolved as a sector in the years since.
- [Research Paper 1 - The history of Local Government in Tasmania](#) was commissioned by the Board and prepared by the University of Tasmania. It explores the early colonial inception of local government and the key events that have shaped its current role in the state, including analysis of both successful and failed attempts at reform and insight into the future state of affairs.
- To complement this, the Board released [a concise two-page reflection](#) on the paper, highlighting some key points it will consider moving forward. Both documents are now available at www.futurelocal.tas.gov.au/publications/.
- In addition to the papers, a helpful interactive resource has been launched on the website - The [Tasmanian Councils Data Dashboard](#) provides a snapshot of some activities and operations of councils using publicly available data sets, designed to help you better understand the diversity of Tasmanian councils and the people they serve.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT HAS COMMENCED

- Community and stakeholder input is at the heart of this Review, with the Board recognising the importance of understanding your ideas, frustrations and aspirations for the future of local government before reform options are considered.
- A comprehensive plan for community engagement was established to ensure that every Tasmanian gets the opportunity to have their say, with both in-person and online options available.

- The first of the in-person sessions commenced on 25 March in Derby and Bridport, just two of the locations included in a series of statewide community pop ups held across the week.
- If you were unable to make it to a pop up or have additional thoughts you would like to contribute, we encourage you to register to attend one of the [community workshops](#) being held across the state from 28 April 2022.

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Future of Local Government Review pop ups in Derby and Hobart

- Can't make it to a workshop? There are four online sessions being held from 9 – 12 May 2022. Register your attendance for both in-person and online workshops [here](#).
- Every Tasmanian also has the opportunity to complete the new online survey, where you are able to express what you love about where you live, learn more about council services and mention any concerns or ideas you may have. To complete the survey, click [here](#).
- Sectoral and broader stakeholder engagement has also commenced. Peak-body organisations recently participated in a number of thematic discussion forums and the Local Government sector is also being provided with engagement opportunities for council staff and elected representatives.
- In total, there will be well over fifty different engagement opportunities for Tasmanians to have their say about local government during Stage 1.
- Further opportunities to engage with the Review will occur after Stage 1, however now is the best time to provide early insight and help shape the Board's next steps.

WHAT'S NEXT?

- The Board will be watching the engagement processes closely as it progresses over the coming months.
- Keep an eye on your inbox for future newsletter updates as work continues both behind the scenes and in the community to shape the Future of Local Government in Tasmania.