

10 May 2022

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The Hon Sue Smith AM
Chairperson, Local Government Board
Review of the Future of Local Government in Tasmania
Email: localgovernment@dpac.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Smith

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW – CENTRAL COAST COUNCIL SUGGESTIONS

I refer to our conversation last week regarding my wish to engage staff in the first stage of the local government review process rather than leaving it to the second stage due to the unrest caused to staff with Devonport City Council's submission, that both the Council and staff were not advised of until the afternoon of the Council meeting.

When discussing in groups, we assured staff that this is about the roles and functions of local government into the future and amalgamation is not something that would be addressed until late in the process, if at all.

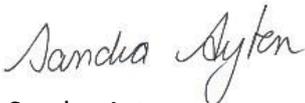
I have provided the ideas from staff in point form for ease of adding to your list:

- Promotion and improvement of “green” infrastructure / more NRM work, both in terms of on-ground works and also supporting local Landcare groups etc.
- Enhanced placemaking, through greater integration of planning, infrastructure and community development activities.
- Facilitating or doing more arts and cultural activities – local government tends to invest a lot more in sport and recreation.
- Bring building surveying back into councils.
- Look at whether there are better ways of undertaking the land use planning role.
- Social housing is a major area that could sit better in council. A model that is similar to the UK would be more appropriate.
- Undertake Service Tasmania Functions within our council area – for instance we could do this at both Ulverstone and Penguin.
- Weed Control (provided with resources).
- All immunisations to be undertaken by State Government (not just some) – councils still undertake school immunisation programs as directed.

- Regulations and compliance of backyard burning and smoke regulations should be regulated by the State Government – in many cases TasFire give permits for people to burn off. 1 State-level authority should be responsible.
- High-risk food businesses (daycare centres, old people's homes or anything that needs a HACCP program should be undertaken by the State Government.
- Regulated systems: cooling towers that risk listeria outbreaks. State already manages this for aged care facilities and hospitals so why is this split between State and Local Government.
- Notifiable disease interviews should be under the State (the State holds the information but asks Council to do interviews).
- On street tobacco control (compliance/no smoking zones) could be further addressed under the State Health Act.
- Council planning development applications should be approved through another system.
- On the whole, staff believe that land use planning should stay with local government as they are. The Council is the group that understand the community better and the land use areas better including drainage issues etc.
- Councils to be engaged more in State Government projects that affect their area.
- Councils could do and should do better engagement with its ratepayers especially around projects. The community as a whole are more interested in the projects rather than the Strategic Plan – the Strategic Plan provides general direction for the municipal area but it isn't until we deal with specific projects that the community becomes much more interested.
- Climate Change is an area that needs clarification on whose responsibility it is and that funding is provided to go with that.

This is not an exhaustive list but gives a general overview of what is important to Council staff into the future.

Yours sincerely



Sandra Ayton
GENERAL MANAGER