

# Future of Local Government Review Newsletter (issue 7)

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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 seventh 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.

## THE STAGE 2 OPTIONS PAPER HAS BEEN RELEASED

On 14 December 2022, the Board published an Options Paper, which discusses a package of potential reforms that the Board believes may deliver improved outcomes for local government and communities alike. We have identified these reform options through an extensive program of community, stakeholder and local government sector engagement, and research undertaken throughout the year.

In developing these options, the Board has also heard about a range of broader structural challenges many councils are facing in finding the scale required to deliver all the things their communities desire, along with their core statutory functions. For this reason, we are exploring three proposed structural reform pathways, which have the potential to increase the capacity and capability of our councils in the delivery of the services and infrastructure that all our communities need and deserve.



The Board has also published a Community Update Pamphlet, which provides a simple summary of the key points from the Options Paper. You can view the Community Update [here](#).

Importantly, ***the options and models we are discussing do not reflect the Board's final views on any preferred reform pathway***. We want to have a serious conversation with all Tasmanians to hear your thoughts on whether you think these options will support our local government sector to deliver the best outcomes for the State. This will help us shape a refined suite of options to present to the Minister for Local Government at the end of Stage 2, on 31 March 2023.

### HAVE YOUR SAY

You can read the detailed Options Paper [here](#). We have also released an interactive version, where you can read through the key issues and make a submission at [www.engage.futurelocal.tas.gov.au](http://www.engage.futurelocal.tas.gov.au)

**Meet the Board - community members:** in February the Board will be hosting a series of Community Meetings across the State, to discuss pathways and options for reform, face to face with Tasmanians. Go to [Events – Future of Local Government Review](#) to see the full list of events and to register your interest to attend.

**Meet the Board - councillors and council staff:** the Board is also working with the Local Government Association Tasmania and Local Government Professionals Tasmania to arrange specific opportunities for both councillors and council staff to meet the Board and discuss the options. You can expect a further update from [LGAT](#) soon.

### TASMANIANS AGED 16 – 44 SURVEYS AND ABORIGINAL ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

During Stage 2 of the Review, the Board undertook targeted engagement with Tasmanians aged 16 to 44, and Tasmanian Aboriginal communities. These groups, who have a significant stake in the future of local government in Tasmania, had been largely underrepresented in previous engagement events.

These engagement activities have provided us with valuable insights and perspectives of previously underrepresented groups which have further helped to inform the development of our reform options presented in our Options Paper.

We are also preparing specific reports on the key themes and findings from these activities, and what they mean for local government reform.

#### TASMANIANS 16 – 44

From 27 October to 23 November 2022, we held two surveys to understand how Tasmanians aged 16 to 25, and 26 to 44, engage with their local councils, and their views on the future role of local government in the 21st century. Thank you to the 500 Tasmanians who provided feedback through these surveys.

#### ABORIGINAL ENGAGEMENT

In September, the Board held four workshops across the State with Tasmanian Aboriginal Community members. The Board would like to once again thank the two facilitators and 61 participants of the workshops.