

**From:** Office of Local Government  
**Sent:** Monday, 16 May 2022 9:24 AM  
**To:** Future of Local Government Review team  
**Subject:** FW: Future of Local Government - a critical tier of government

**Importance:** High

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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**Categories:** For follow up

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**From:** Anne & Miles Harrison  
**Sent:** Sunday, 15 May 2022 4:47 PM  
**To:** Office of Local Government <localgovernment@dpac.tas.gov.au>  
**Cc:** michael@michaelferguson.com  
**Subject:** Future of Local Government - a critical tier of government  
**Importance:** High

Dear Hon Sue Smith,

CC Minister for Local Government

**RE The Future of Local Government Review**

I have participated in the on-line survey.  
I have also attended and contributed to the well-run workshop held at the Hobart Town Hall on 2 May.  
Thank you for these opportunities.

**The question of "Should Local Govt continue in its present form (or an altered form)" was never asked. I believe this to be an oversight.**

Local Government is the third tier of government.  
It has local knowledge re topography and how Tasmania's many regions differ (part of the state's charm).  
It is the form of government closest to the people.  
It employs specialist staff who know their area extremely well.

**All of this would be lost if Local Government were to be removed.**

My view is Local Government in Tasmania should be better resourced to undertake its many tasks under the Act.

I include just 4 examples here :

- Strategic planning - for the future , for climate change and for the community.
- Statutory planning - some tension can exist between elected members who represent their community, and requirements of the state planning system ( the many Interim Schemes and the Tas Planning Scheme).
- Better training in the role as Planning Authority is essential as informed Councilors are critical when good decisions are required.

- Information flow and absolute transparency across a Council, with staff providing technical knowledge as required, are absolutely critical when elected members sit as the Planning Authority.
- Effective and timely communication with ratepayers.

In my view, all these matters need attention to improve the resilience and capability of Councils into the future.

**We need Local Government to be effective, to be well resourced and to continue.**

I would be delighted to speak further with you should that be possible.

Thank you and regards,

Anne Harrison

BA Dip ED, A Mus A, T Mus A, Grad Dip Business Admin



Ex-President, Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania

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Past President & Committee member - community groups in Blackmans Bay