

17/February/2023

Letter to Local Government Review

The Board of Cradle Coast Authority (CCA) thank you for the opportunity to draw the attention of the Local Government Review Board, to the capability of CCA, as it clarifies its final recommendations in the Review of Local government reform. As an organisation CCA has the established credibility, experience, workforce and governance structures necessary to support Local Government across the Cradle Coast region to transition and adapt services, programs and projects emerging from the Local Government Reform process

The CCA was created as an Authority under the Local Government Act and has been in existence for 25 years. While council membership is voluntary, CCA has maintained strong connections and responsiveness to all councils in our region, pivoting readily in response to changing economic, social and environmental conditions. CCA has also demonstrated its adaptability to a changing local government landscape. The Authority is well supported by a Board comprised of 5 independent skills-based Directors and 3 more with specialist local government experience. Our governance model also includes the 8 formal member councils through a Representative Group drawn from all Mayors and General Managers.

Over two decades, CCA has delivered a diverse range of services and programs to the region and individual councils, including an across-the-coast Shared Pathways Infrastructure Program, large-scale State and Federal Natural Resource Management grants and projects, establishment of *Enterprize* on the North- West Coast, establishment of a Regional Planning Group, School-based Apprenticeship programs across local councils and the Truck Wash and Effluent Dump Project across 4 sites in the region, with a current project management programme valued in excess of \$18+ million.

CCA can demonstrate that for every dollar contributed by the member Councils, we have consistently returned more than \$6 in value to the region and, in the 2022/2023 financial year, the return is in excess of \$8.

Across service delivery, project implementation and management; a diverse range of stakeholder engagement has contributed to the longevity, credibility, and effectiveness of the organisation. CCA has built strong partnerships with councils and external partners (e.g. UTAS, four regional Chambers of Commerce, TasPorts, TasNetworks, Skills Tasmania, State Growth, NRE, RDA Tasmania, Workforce Australia and multiple Australian Government agencies in the environment and agriculture space). Alongside these CCA has built further strong connections with community and volunteer groups through our Regional Economic Development and Regional Natural Resource Management (NRM) Committees.

CCA understands from the Review's Second Report that the status quo of Local Government service delivery is unlikely to be acceptable to the Minister and Government. While not seeking to influence the outcome of the Review, we wish to inform the Review Board that CCA is an experienced regional partner with well placed, clearly defined governance structures to deliver, manage or support any future services or functions that may assist transition of the local government sector; subsequent to the determination of the Minister.

Given that the Authority's structures are in place and depending on scale, CCA support services could be provided almost immediately for some services. In the case of larger scale reform of service delivery, the CCA has the capacity to work with all stakeholders to create and execute an inclusive transition plan that ensures continuity of service, minimising disruption to the community.

The Board and Management of CCA welcome the opportunity to discuss this proposal.

Kind Regards



Sid Sidebottom
Chairman