

# The Future of Local Government in Tasmania December 2022

## Submission: Stage 2 options

### **Preamble:**

**One Council maybe the right answer with seven wards and five precincts within those wards!**

### **My experience:**

In the last fourteen months I personally have heard stories around numerous councils in Tasmania which more than suggest that a serious structural change is required sooner rather than later. This will require a major shift in current workings and thinking.

### **Overview:**

**With just of 500,000 population of Tasmania if we had one Council it still would not be the largest Council in the country by population but it would be by land mass.**

The review will end and we will still have many issues to currently deal with.

What if at the end of the review all Councils were immediately dissolved and replaced with one Council with an administrator and executive team to rebuild Local Government for the future of Tasmania.

The make-up of this one Council would have the following and really tick of your shared services and fewer, bigger Councils check list.

The One Council would have seven wards each with five precincts and one publically elected official for each precinct.

South west ward, with depot and office central open to public and a few satellite depots.

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Central south ward, with depot and office central open to public and a few satellite depots.

Midlands ward with depot and office central open to public and a few satellite depots.

North west ward, with depot and office central open to public and a few satellite depots.

North east ward, with depot and office central open to public and a few satellite depots.

Central north ward, with depot and office central open to public and a few satellite depots.

Thirty five elected paid well enough so they don't have to run businesses with major conflicts around their roles as councillors which is rampant today.

Educated well, so that the better off overall public pay test is met and bettered for every decision.

One CEO with seven directors and a streamlined management structure with the bulk of employees on the front line to give back a public service like never before.

The thirty five elected members every year vote on a figure head for Mayor and deputy from their ranks that will chair meetings and ensure that roles and rights along with codes of conducts are met by all. Be the spokesperson for the Council. Term is five years for the thirty five elected.

This will ensure that there is no power play at the top forced down on the rest. Along with a consultative committee for every ward made up of 13 members the director of the ward and HR rep, Two outdoor staff one being a manager, one union rep, one LGAT rep, then 7 independent community members chosen to represent a sector of the community. They do the legwork of each ward. Review policy recommend changes, support the community and reduce red tape all while working towards transparent and ethical Local Government practices in line with community expectations and consistent across the whole state.

**Objectives:**

This approach will ensure results for the community is forefront of everyone's minds and the time needed to implement real positive outcomes.

Resources will be shared and not devoured by the bigger council I.e. Latrobe/Kentish.

35 allowances all the same so that there is now power play for Mayor and deputy Mayor.

CEO and executives' pay them well with real KPI's (no bonuses just KPI's with real community outcomes).

Thin line management with frontline staffing the focus.

**Strategy:**

**Just do it!**

**Recommendation:**

The review board follow through with what they have announced they will do.

The worst that could have with this model is that you turn the seven wards into seven Councils with five councillors. Very simple approach and with built in fall backs, Massive cost savings, better community outcomes, resource sharing completely. This may even allow State Government not to go to 35 Lower house members as it's done already and maybe like all good businesses this might replace State Government one day.

**Conclusion:**

This will tick the review board's boxes and will deliver for the whole of Tasmania real world positive community outcomes.

Your Sincerely

James Redgrave