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Friday 10 February 2023

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW STAGE 2 OPTIONS PAPER

To whom it may concern

The Tasmanian Labor Party is pleased to provide a submission to the Local Government Review Stage 2 Options Paper.

Labor has a proud history of working with Local Government to deliver positive outcomes for communities.

Local Government is the level of Government closest to the people and is an important provider of services and employment across Tasmania.

Tasmanian Labor does not support forced local government amalgamations.

Additionally, Labor would be very concerned if any review outcomes saw local councils lose ownership of core local services.

While Labor sees many opportunities for local councils to share skills and resources we do not support resource-sharing recommendations that would see core council services outsourced away from councils.

Councils, for the most part, have predictable workflows and, wherever practical, should look to directly employ a local workforce to fill the needs of their communities.

These secure, local jobs provide a massive benefit to local communities and the state as a whole.

A recent example of the failure of outsourcing was in Clarence when issues with the transition between contractors saw major and expensive disruptions to rubbish, recycling and green waste collection. It is not lost on Tasmanian Labor that it was the permanent rubbish collection workforce at Hobart City Council that stepped up to bail out the failures of outsourcing a core council responsibility.

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While Tasmanian Labor will review any recommendations of the Board we do have several concerns about the lack of consultation and engagement during the process.

Tasmanian Labor believes the Board should have included at least one representative from Tasmania's Local Government workforce, of which there are more than 4000 workers including their union representatives with an in-depth knowledge of the sector to have chosen from.

Eight community meetings is not enough and there is a glaring lack of engagement with major population centres. None of the Local Government Areas considered a City has hosted an event. This is a major oversight.

I also understand that of those sessions held before the time of writing, the turnout has been very low.

Tasmanian Labor is also concerned about reports that workers at some councils were not made aware of the workforce sessions and that workers at some councils were not afforded time to attend.

Thank you for taking the time to read our submission.

Yours sincerely

Luke Edmunds MLC
Shadow Minister for Local Government