
From: Terry Sawford
Sent: Friday, 17 February 2023 5:55 PM
To: Local Government Board
Subject: Amalgamation of councils.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this email to express my concerns regarding the possible forced amalgamations of local councils.

If the government wishes to amalgamate councils it would be far more beneficial to start in Hobart with the Hobart, Clarence, Glenorchy and Kingsborough councils. A large council combining with a small council is not an amalgamation it is a takeover, given the power imbalance and the difference in demographics between rural and urban councils. I'm sure in Northern Tasmania there are councils similar to those in the Hobart area that would benefit more from an amalgamation. The resources that are freed up from combining urban councils could be used to help smaller rural councils. I sincerely doubt the state government should be taking on more responsibility, given how poorly maintained rural roads are already, for example the Mudwalls road has been deteriorating for years now and the state governments lack of maintenance let alone upgrade of this important secondary road is evident. Furthermore the amount of time it is taking the state to fix the Midlands highway further proves the state government should not be taking on more responsibility at this time. The Government should not be concerned about the standard of employees at the Southern Midlands Council because, in my experience, working for the council has always been a very covered job among locals. Some state politicians also behave badly and no one is suggesting we amalgamate with Victoria, considering Tasmania has the same population as Geelong. I believe there are some councils in NSW and Victoria that amalgamated that are now deamalgamating because it didn't work out.

Thank you for your time.

Regards,
Terry