



SOUTH HOBART PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

(Incorporating Cascades Progress Association)

Founded 1922

ABN 65 850 310 318

President: Michael Cole

Hon. Secretary: David Halse Rogers

Local Government Board
GPO Box 123
HOBART TAS 7001

By email: Submissions.LGBoard@dpac.tas.gov.au

**re: The Future of Local Government Review
Comment on the Options Paper and Appendix.**

The South Hobart Progress Association Inc. (SHPA Inc.) Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania (PMAT) takes this opportunity to thank you for inviting comment on the future of Local Government.

The Association is concerned that the whole exercise has been a flawed consultation process. Given the magnitude of the proposed changes, the inadequacy of community consultation that has taken place is distressing, to say the least. Given the high regard in which local councils are held by their respective communities, meetings should be held in **all** local Council areas across Tasmania. As the Association reads it, meetings have only been held in **eight** (8) local government areas.

From reading the material available to the Public, it appears unclear how many Tasmanians (and Councils) have asked for forced amalgamations **and** the removal of Councils as the planning authority. Why have these "reform" options suddenly arisen?

Since 2018, there has been a lack of genuine consultation. All of the findings of the current Review must be made public.

The issue of council amalgamations appears to be only the subsidiary aim of this investigation. As will be well-known to the *Local Government Board* and to the *Tasmanian Planning Commission*, the benefits of such amalgamations are dubious, at best, as has been demonstrated by such amalgamations in Brisbane, to mention just one jurisdiction, where cost benefits and alienation of communities has led to a rethink of the whole process.

The main area of contention for this Association is, however, the issue of the removal of local government as the statutory planning authority. Local government is the best level at ensuring local representation and accountability. When state governments remove planning from local government to some form of anonymous quango, corruption and mismanagement follow. It is undemocratic and can lead to devastating outcomes for residents, ratepayers and democracy, including local representation being lost.

Yours faithfully,

David Halse Rogers.

Honorary Secretary. SHPA (Inc.)
19th February, 2023

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