From:	Time Williams
Sent:	Sunday, 19 February 2023 10:53 PM
To:	Submissions LGBoard
Cc:	Sophie Underwood
Subject:	Tim Williams - Support for the PMAT Submission: The Future of Local Government Review – Comment on the Options Paper and Appendix
Attachments:	PMAT Local Gov Review Submission Feb 2023 FINAL.pdf

Dear Local Government Board,

RE: The Future of Local Government Review – Comment on the Options Paper and Appendix

I have read in full the submission that has been sent to you by 'Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania' (PMAT).

I write to support and endorse their submission in full.

I do this as a design professional (licenced Building Designer in Tasmania and Graduate of Architecture) who uses the Tasmanian Planning system every day in my work and who supports the principle that local governments play an important role as the Local Planning Authority with regard to the work that I do on behalf of my clients and that they do on behalf of the community they serve.

Having lived and worked for 25 years in the UK, France and Denmark, I can compare it to planning systems internationally. In addition, having grown-up, studied architecture and worked in NSW, I can compare it to another Australian state.

I have worked on 'State Significant Development' projects (for new schools) in NSW prior to arriving in Tasmania three years ago and I was deeply concerned with the manner in which the NSW State Government was over-riding the Local Councils' input on behalf of their constituents into the planning consent process as well as the lack of public engagement in this process.

The new school that I was specifically responsible for as the Project Leader, spent over two years being assessed by the NSW State-appointed 'Independent Planning Committee', resulting in a very costly delay to the religious community of mostly refugees who were planning to build the school and the pupils who suffered in the existing, overcrowded schools which the new school would resolve. The resultant committee-approved scheme had so many conditions in order to appease uninformed religious concerns from local 'nimbys' that the community will now never be able to afford to build the school, having already spent a very large sum of money to consultants to create a highly-resolved project within the client's original budget which responded positively to all the complex planning requirements of the site.

As a specialist Environmentally Sustainable Design Consultant, I agree with PMAT that transparency, democracy and good planning for all future development is critical for healthy and happy communities to thrive and to coexist with the extraordinary biodiversity and wondrous nature of this unique island State.

In my estimation, rather than force Council amalgamations, we need to better fund and resource our existing Local Councils in order to support them in their important work as a local planning authority, rather than remove them from the system or undermine their democratic position as the gate-keepers of wellbeing for their communities. Planning is a vital tool in these challenging times and ***we, the people***, need to have our say and know that our local and state governments are always acting in our future best interests.

I believe in three principles which are more important now than ever before:

1. **Nature** must always come first - *as we depend on nature for everything and we can't keep believing that it will keep supporting life when we decimate it for short-term profits and self-interest*;
2. **Community** must come second - *as we are a social species and we need look after each other*;
3. Then we as a community can agree on ways to create **positive and regenerative development** using a fair, democratic and transparent planning system that requires the highest standards of design and sustainability currently possible. Local Councils are best placed to manage their community's needs and aspirations: fairly, democratically and transparently.

I wish to be kept informed of the ongoing process regarding the future progress of 'The Future of Local Government Review' and respectfully request that you email me to confirm receipt of my support for the PMAT submission.

In this regard, please find attached the full PMAT submission, which I wholly endorse.

Yours sincerely,

Tim

wombat
eco sensitive design

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