
From: Tom Kingston
Sent: Wednesday, 15 February 2023 4:50 PM
To: Submissions LGBoard
Subject: SUBMISSION

To whom it may concern

I wish to make a submission regarding the State Government review of the way Tasmanian councils work. Here are two quotations from the publications supplied by the board:

1. "Redrawing local government boundaries would enable councils to better reflect today's diverse, connected, and mobile communities " I question this assumption. It appears to me that evidence from the mainland amalgamations from smaller to larger councils do not better reflect and in actual fact deny this 'reflection'. In some cases some councils on the mainland are actually seeking to leave this 'amalgamation'. In summary I am opposed to forced amalgamation of local councils
2. "Evidence shows that where communities are engaged in the decision-making process, they are more likely to trust and accept council decisions." If this is clear then removal from local council decision making of so called 'major projects' is not the way forward.

In summary, while the documents supplied were reasonably comprehensive and well presented, they assumed a level playing field existed in Tasmania's state and local government. The evidence does not support this. The existence of lobbyists and political donations from powerful vested interests that is covered in the media shows this is not the case. Political parties appear answerable to such vested interests. One of the advantages of local councils, under the present practice, is to bypass, to a degree, the political party and political donations. Hence, I do not support state government's move to take decision making on local developments and the like away from local councils.

Thank you
Tom Kingston