

Future of Local Government Review Newsletter (issue 10)

May 2023

More information?
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The Tasmanian Government has commissioned the Local Government Board to undertake a broad review into the future of local government in Tasmania. The review will look at the fundamentals of the local government system: the role it should play in supporting communities, the services it should be delivering, and the most effective ways of doing so.

This is the tenth in a series of newsletters which will provide periodic updates on the Local Government Board's [Future of Local Government in Tasmania Review](#). These newsletters will also provide updates and information on key engagement opportunities to ensure you understand how to have your say on local government in Tasmania.

STAGE 2 INTERIM REPORT HAS BEEN RELEASED

The third and final stage of the Review commenced on 1 April 2023. In line with the Board's Terms of Reference, the Board presented its Interim Report to the Minister for Local Government on 31 March 2023, detailing the research and engagement undertaken during Stage 2 of the Review.

The Board has now published the Report, which outlines the community and stakeholder engagement program delivered by the Board during Stage 2, and the reform proposals we will be exploring with communities and councils during Stage 3 of the Review.

The Report sets out nine 'community catchments' maps, showing at a sub-regional level clearly identified social, economic and geographic relationships – in other words how we live, work and play. The Report clearly notes these community catchment maps identify areas of inherent 'connectedness' of Tasmanian communities that transcend current council boundaries.

Importantly, these maps are not final boundary recommendations, but are intended to act as a catalyst for constructive, future-focused conversations with and between councils and communities about how we potentially could reorganise our local government boundaries at a larger scale to deliver stronger capability, while simultaneously supporting and enhancing community cohesion, voice, and sense of place.

EXTENSION TO REVIEW TIMEFRAMES

On 19 May 2023, the Minister for Local Government announced he is extending the timeframe for consultation during the third and final stage of the Future of Local Government Review, to allow for a more intensive engagement process with the sector. This will also provide communities with a longer period to provide feedback on the Stage 2 Interim Report.

The Minister has extended the consultation time for feedback on the Interim Report by six weeks, to 2 August 2023. He has also extended the due date for the final Report to 31 October 2023.

HAVE YOUR SAY

We are inviting comment on all aspects of the Report until **2 August 2023**. You can read the detailed and summary Interim Report and make a submission at www.engage.futurelocal.tas.gov.au. Alternatively you can email a submission to submissions.lgboard@dpac.tas.gov.au.

In late May, we will also release Information Packs for each community catchment including boundary options that show how one or more councils could serve that catchment. During the consultation period, the Board encourages groups of councils to work together to develop their own scenarios they believe will serve the community catchments and align with our foundations and criteria.

After the consultation period closes, the Board will hold a series of formal hearings, where we will request all 29 councils to make presentations on how they see local government best serving our identified community catchments. Community members will also be able to make presentations during this process. We intend to stream these meetings online and they will be open to the public.



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There will also be further opportunities for community input in Stage 3, including state-wide surveys of community members, councillors and council staff, and targeted community focus groups within each of the community catchments. We'll be providing more details about these opportunities in the near future.

FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR COUNCILLORS AND STAFF ACROSS TASMANIA

During the consultation period, the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) will also support a program of both regional and online engagement with council staff *and* elected representatives. In the near future, LGAT will publish more information about how you can get involved on their website at <https://www.lgat.tas.gov.au/>.

To keep up to date with all current information and engagement opportunities, visit www.futurelocal.tas.gov.au.