

City of Launceston

Tamar Valley Community Catchment Information Pack

The Council provides the following submission to the Local Government Board in respect to the Tamar Valley Community Catchment Information Pack released on 29 May 2023:

1. The Council is supportive of a future scenario which would result in the creation of a new Tamar Valley Council which should not be mistaken for any form of take-over or expansion of an existing Council, including the City of Launceston;
2. Any suggestions made in respect to proposed adjustments to the scenarios does not in any way imply that the Council does not value the townships and localities that are currently located within the City of Launceston. Suggested adjustments are made in consideration of achieving the best future State for Local Government within Northern Tasmania;
3. Within any future state for Local Government, it is vital that effective mechanisms are implemented to maintain or enhance place-based local community representation;
4. In consideration of points 1 to 3, the Council offers the following responses to the Local Government Board's questions relating to the (4) four scenarios which it has developed:

Tamar Valley: Scenario 1



Scenario 1 establishes one council for a large proportion of the Tamar Valley Catchment area, capturing the existing West Tamar, George Town, and Launceston LGAs, extending to incorporate Prospect Vale and Blackstone Heights as continuously connected suburbs of Launceston.

2021 Population - 108,835
% Growth 2011-21 - 10.2%

What are the strengths?

- Sufficient population to appropriately fund the regional assets and create funding equity across the region.
- Includes most urban growth areas in a single Municipal Area which would facilitate more effective planning.
- Includes the Bell Bay Industrial Zone which would facilitate effective regional planning, particularly relating to land use and transport
- Sufficient size to facilitate effective and integrated regional land use and transport planning
- Would enable more consistent and integrated management of the kanamaluka Tamar Estuary

What are the weaknesses or challenges?

- This scenario does not include the Launceston Airport or Translink Industrial area which would be an impediment to effective regional planning as both have intrinsic connections to the Launceston city.
- The larger Municipal Area would make the achievement of effective place-based local community representation more challenging.
- The scenario includes a significant component of rural land, which may not provide synergies with the needs of the metropolitan component of the Municipal area.

Are there any adjustments that could be made to maximise the strengths and minimise the weaknesses?

- The area could be extended to include the Launceston Airport and Translink Industrial Area to enable effective regional planning.
- The area of Lilydale through to Blessington could be considered for the proposed North Eastern Municipal area as the needs of these communities may be more commensurate with the focus of the future Council.

Tamar Valley: Scenario 2

Scenario 2 establishes one council capturing a large proportion of the Tamar Valley catchment area, but with alternate boundaries to Scenario 1. The council would encompass the existing West Tamar and Launceston LGAs but, unlike Scenario 1, does not include George Town.

2021 Population - 94,605
% Growth 2011-21 - 10.7%

What are the strengths?

- Sufficient population to appropriately fund the regional assets and create funding equity across the region.
- Includes most urban growth areas in a single Municipal Area which would facilitate more effective planning.
- Includes the Launceston Airport and Translink Industrial Zone which would facilitate effective regional planning, particularly relating to land use and transport
- Sufficient size to facilitate effective and integrated regional land use and transport planning

What are the weaknesses or challenges?

- The area does not include the Bell Bay Industrial Zone which would be an impediment to effective regional planning.
- The larger Municipal Area would make the achievement of effective place-based local community representation more challenging.
- Includes a significant component of rural land, which may not provide synergies with the needs of the metropolitan component of the Municipal area

Are there any adjustments that could be made to maximise the strengths and minimise the weaknesses?

- The area of Lilydale through to Blessington could be considered for the proposed North Eastern Municipal area as the needs of these communities would be more commensurate with the focus of the future Council.

Tamar Valley: Scenario 3

Scenario 3, like the other scenarios in this catchment, creates one council area. It combines the existing West Tamar, George Town and Launceston LGAs with Launceston's major commuting townships of Hadspen, Carrick, Longford, Perth, Evandale and their immediate surrounds.

2021 Population - 122,360
% Growth 2011-21 - 10.8%

What are the strengths?

- Sufficient population to appropriately fund the regional assets and create funding equity across the region.

- Includes most urban growth areas in a single Municipal Area which would facilitate more effective planning.
- Includes the Bell Bay Industrial Zone which would facilitate effective regional planning, particularly relating to land use and transport.
- Includes the Launceston Airport and Translink Industrial area which would facilitate effective regional planning, particularly relating to land use and transport
- Sufficient size to facilitate effective and integrated regional land use and transport planning.
- Would enable more consistent and integrated management of the Kanamaluka Tamar estuary.

What are the weaknesses or challenges?

- The municipal Area is large and would include a significant component of rural land, which may not provide synergies with the needs of the metropolitan component of the Municipal area.
- The larger Municipal Area would make the achievement of effective place-based local community representation more challenging.

Are there any adjustments that could be made to maximise the strengths and minimise the weaknesses?

- The area of Lilydale through to Blessington could be considered for the proposed North Eastern Municipal area as the needs of these communities would be more commensurate with the focus of the future Council of that area.
- The same consideration would be needed for the townships of Hadspen, Carrick, Longford, Perth and Evandale in respect to the proposed Central and Midlands Community Catchment.

Tamar Valley: Scenario 4



Scenario 4 also creates one new council area combining West Tamar, George Town, and Launceston existing LGA, It also encompasses the agricultural land to the west of the Tamar Valley, including the townships of Westbury and Deloraine.

2021 Population - 123,051
 % Growth 2011-21 - 10.2%

What are the strengths?

- Appropriate area with sufficient population to appropriately fund the regional assets and create more funding equity across the region.
- Includes most urban growth areas in a single Municipal Area.
- Includes the Bell Bay Industrial Zone which would facilitate effective regional planning, particularly relating to land use and transport.

- Includes the Launceston Airport and Translink Industrial Zone which would facilitate effective regional planning, particularly relating to land use and transport.
- Sufficient size to facilitate effective and integrated regional land use and transport planning.
- Would enable more consistent and integrated management of the kanamaluka Tamar estuary.

What are the weaknesses or challenges?

- This proposed Municipal Area is too large and would include a significant component of rural land, which would not provide synergies with the needs of the metropolitan component of the Municipal Area.
- The larger Municipal Area would make the achievement of effective place-based local community representation more challenging.

Are there any adjustments that could be made to maximise the strengths and minimise the weaknesses?

- The area of Lilydale through to Blessington could be considered for the proposed North Eastern Municipal area as the needs of these communities would be more commensurate with the focus of the future Council.
- The same consideration would be needed for the townships of Hadspen, Carrick, Longford, Perth and Evandale in respect to the proposed Central and Midlands Community Catchment.
- The western townships of Westbury and Deloraine are not necessarily suited to being included in a metropolitan Municipal Area and would be better provided for in a more regional focused Municipal area. The inclusion of these townships creates difficulties in terms of synergies and servicing as they not necessarily compatible in what would be a more metropolitan based Council. This could consider either the Central and Midlands Community Catchment and/or the Cradle Coast Community Catchment.

Are there any other entirely different scenarios the Board should consider, which would still deliver against the Board's criteria and structural reform principles?

- The Council is not suggesting any entirely different scenarios, rather, there is potential for one of the four scenarios to be acceptable if the suggested adjustments are made to maximise strengths and minimise weaknesses.

Information Pack Supporting paper - Shared Service Models

- There is merit in a hybrid approach being applied to Local Government reform within the state whereby the larger, more urban Councils are required to offer services for the regional Councils which often struggle to attract and maintain professional staff, particularly in areas such as Town Planning, Engineering, Project Managers and Environmental Health etc. Resource sharing could also extend to back of house services.
- Any proposal for Councils to devolve services (such as Land Use Planning) to state-wide or regional bodies is not supported as it would undermine the role of Councils and would create unnecessary complexities in the planning and development of local places and would cause a disconnect between local elected members and land use decision making. From the Council perspective it is considered vital that Local

Government retain its ability to deliver local services and make strategic and statutory land use planning decisions to enable authentic, placed-based planning to continue within communities.