

The Future of Local Government Review
Submissions.LGBoard@dpac.tas.gov.au



1 August 2023

Dear Future of Local Government Review Board,

Huon Valley Zoning Association has actively supported our Huon Valley community for the last 18 months as we have navigated the consultation and TPC hearing process for a new LPS under the Tasmanian Planning Scheme.

We were pleased today to hear the final representations of more than 417 lodged by our Huon Valley community.

Unfortunately this excellent participation was triggered by poor engagement, strategic planning and implementation practices by our Council, compounded by significant use of project consultants with little background of our community's history, values and culture.

We can confidently speak for our members to say that we support change to local government's planning capacity. Some key requests would be implementation of:

1. Standardised processes to track and manage workloads and evaluation standards
2. Mandatory professional development that builds a sound corporate culture of engaged, proactive and professionally connected planners with a can-help attitude to clients
3. A standard funding and scheduled approach to strategic planning, with resource-sharing or expertise between councils to support smaller organisations
4. Quality control via standard internal audit programs.

We won't comment on where a 'Southern Shore' boundary ought to be established, but note that sharing common values and issue resolution will enable a more consistent focus of a Council's planning department. A rural-centric approach which values the diverse range of rural community lifestyles would seem a suitable solution.

Kind regards,

Handwritten signature of Amy Robertson in blue ink.

Amy Robertson
Secretary, Huon Valley Zoning Association
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