



Subject:

Response to "What should government look like in the Huon Valley - Have your Say" from "The Future of Local Government Review"

Date:

Wednesday, 2 August 2023 11:05:35 PM



I am a long-term Huon Valley resident who enjoys the quality of life here and would like to make some comments on the proposed council amalgamations.

I feel the benefits as listed in the Southern Community Catchment Information Pack can be achieved without the need for any changes of boundaries or amalgamation of councils, for example greater rate payer involvement in council decisions and transparency of council operations.

I believe that efficiencies can be gained through more tenable work practices for council staff and the systems which support provision of services without needing a greater rate payer base; after all Hobart City Council has had its fair share of problems like this with a far greater number of rate payers. If greater fulfilment and less stress exists in the workplace, these things in themselves are likely to attract and retain staff with high skill levels, creating better continuity of services and consolidating experience for staff to serve the Valley better.

The fact that the councils do not always use the same service providers could contribute to extra transition costs.

In view of the transition costs, I would hope to see councils operating effectively without so many running issues, for example, being able to change regulations in order to make their services more consistent and accessible to the average rate payer before any amalgamation was considered, since this would not solve many of the problems the council has at the moment.

The shared facilities between more rural councils appears to be a sufficient way of increasing capability at this stage.

In view of the above, Scenario 1 would fit best, whether Kingborough keeps Taroona or not. Scenario 2, being a full amalgamation would not necessarily help the respective councils to run better, and neither would Scenario 3, which would also have the added problems of isolating many Channel residents from a centre, and creating a large rural area to manage with a low rate payer base to resource it.

Thanks for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,
Beata Parry

PS. I am sending this via a friend's email address as I am not online.