

Subject: Submission in Support of Local Government, Council Amalgamation

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

2 August 2023

Dear Future of Local Government Board

As an interested member of the Huon Valley community, I wish to tender my support for amalgamation scenario 3 as outlined in the Southern-Shore Community Catchment Information Pack.

One of the core elements highlighted within the information pack is Scenario 3's unique position to focus on the rural and regional capabilities of the newly formed municipal area. In essence, regional management and planning considerations could be resourced within a Planning Department with specialisation in development that relate to Rural and sustainable initiatives that are an integral part of the Huon Valley, and wider catchment areas identified in Scenario 3. This should bring about efficiencies within the Planning Department where team members are not required to be experts across all areas of planning. This could also ensure that development applications are assessed within a timely fashion.

Additionally, the formation of newly drawn up boundaries of Scenario 3, would also provide the Council an opportunity to develop their own Land Use Development Strategy that is sensitive to the diverse uses that form part of the unique character of the rural type lifestyles enjoyed by the community. Even though, urbanisation is not of a particular focus for the Southern-Shore Community Catchment under scenario 3, it should be noted that cross Council dialogue be fostered so that expertise can be gleaned from departments when bespoke projects that require additional consultation are submitted and then subsequently appropriately considered.

The amalgamation of our local councils presents an opportunity to streamline processes, reduce overheads, attain greater bargaining power for seeking external services or even rendering a service a viable option for it to be provided in-house, spread areas of responsibility across teams, affording greater levels of transparency and accountability.

I appreciate you giving me this opportunity to present my opinion in regard to this matter. Should you require further input, please don't hesitate to contact me at my [REDACTED]

Regards,

Edwin Caleb Elcock