

COUNCIL AMALGAMATION

Dear Sir

Whoever suggested Flinders Island council amalgamation with other in NE Tasmania made the suggestion from the base of object ignorance and has obviously never been to or even bothered to learn the whereabouts of Flinders Island.

Let me give you some instances of ignorance of the proponents and why I am sure they are ignorant of any possibility that amalgamation would be effective

1. The premier of Tasmania recently sent a notification of what the state government was proposing to support NW Tasmania. He is not ignorant of the uniqueness of Flinders Island as he wrote separate proposals for the Island group!
2. The amalgamation of Flinders Island with other councils was proposed several years ago and was soundly rejected
3. Several years ago Flinders Island was looking for finances to undertake a feasibility study to build an abattoir. News came back from Canberra politicians that a bridge to King Island would be a better idea. Pure ignorance and worse because they could not be bothered to look
4. Recently the council sold its "tar truck". The former boss of the Island maintenance crew was so incensed that he took to social media to exclaim what contracting costs and external contractors would charge heaps more than could be achieved in house. Just imaging if Flinders had to share road maintenance equipment and it has to be shipped back and forth to mainland Tasmania.
5. It has been suggested that Flinders has connections with other towns in Tasmania, primarily Bridport. What a joke! Look at the number of cars parked in Bridport airstrip. You fly across to Bridport and leave to do business elsewhere.
6. The ferry bring cargo to Flinders leaves from Bridport but even they have a depot in Launceston to collect goods from all over Tasmania.
7. Cattle exported from Flinders Island arrive in Bridport only to be transported to their next destination.
8. Council received state government funds to build a veterinary clinic. The architects took no notice of any information the locals provided and have produced plans for a veterinary clinic that would be best suited for Hobart, not for a population of less than 1000 people and their pets and at a cost of way more than any private vet would pay to set up knowing the limited income it could possibly generate.
9. Tourism Tasmania has finally realized that Flinders Island is unique with respect to tourism and the type of tourist they should be marketing to. Certainly not the "haute cuisine types" Regenerative tourism is the plan and unique to Flinders Island. This only came about because those in charge finally decided to visit the island and learn about its uniqueness.

I SUGGEST THAT BEFORE THE STATE GOVERNMENT MAKES A COMPLETE FOOL OF ITSELF THE PROPONENTS OF AMALGAMATION VISIT THE ISLAND AND STOP ADVOCATING SUCH A MOVE FROM A POINT OF COMPLETE IGNORANCE