



Subject:
Date:



Stage 3 submission Huon Valley
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As someone who has spent the bulk of my life living and working in Sydney and Perth and the last 15 years in the Huon Valley, I am in favour of amalgamation. My preference would be more along the lines of only five local government areas rather than the “proposed” nine being suggested.

My reasons as to why I am in favour of amalgamation versus the status quo for the Huon Valley are:

- The Huon Valley population is not large enough to support the wages of the current Huon Valley Council empire, let alone the necessary infrastructure.
- The current General Manager is conflicted because of his flawed recruitment, is on an unsustainable salary, and does not live in the Valley
- The current Mayor is incompetent in her role and is conflicted because she was complicit in the flawed recruitment of the GM
- The current Council suffers from staff skill shortages, currently employs staff that are beyond their skillsets and competencies, and require a clean out
- The current Council has not shown the necessary improvements following the BOI and the previously sacked Council in terms of communication, transparency and concern for the ratepayers
- The arguments against amalgamation are based on the concerns that areas like the far South will be even more ignored. It makes no difference if an elected Councillor is living in Margate versus living in Cygnet and to suggest otherwise is just a parochial view
- Amalgamation will assist in preventing the well entrenched nepotism that exists in the Huon Valley
- Amalgamation will provide the region with a wider variety of representatives rather than those favoured by the Valley community because they went to school together or are on the same sporting clubs
- Amalgamation will bring objectivity to local issues based on financial assumptions rather than “who you know” reasons
- Amalgamation will assist in Council making objective decisions on services provided rather than emotive decisions because it may impact peoples employment who happen to be friends of friends
- Most of all, amalgamation along with hopefully the clearing out of

incompetencies and corruption, will bring confidence back into the community about local government being an effective Council working for the ratepayer rather than empire building, jobs for mates, more transparency with tenders – again not favouring mates and familiar relationships ... and will hopefully bring about a much leaner management structure catering to a wider ratepayer base.

It is my long held view that amalgamation must be forced on our communities else it will not happen as Councillors and staff protect their existing empire. It is also my view that the status quo is doomed to fail because we are to this day seeing the outcomes of an ongoing dysfunctional Council.

Geoffrey Swan

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