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I wish to propose that as part of Local Government reform that the Council areas of Flinders Island, Dorset, Break o' Day, Northern Midlands, Meander Valley, Launceston, West Tamar and George Town be united as one Northern Council. Other areas of the State should also be considered in a similar manner, what could be referred to as the telephone book model.

In the northern area this model would provide an approximate balance of population between those people in Launceston City and those residing in the outlying towns and rural areas.

If the alternative of a Greater Launceston or Tamar Valley Council was created it would leave the outlying areas of the North and North East as "poor country cousins" with large rural areas, a limited rating base with no substantial population centres.

Regarding communities of interest or "catchment areas" people of outlying areas such as St Helens or Scottsdale have more in common, or interest in Launceston, than they do with each other or other outlying areas such as Campbell Town or Lilydale.

Launceston is the cultural and sporting centre and the centre of commerce for the whole region. The population of all the northern Councils, to a greater or lesser degree, rely on Launceston, the Airport, the ports and industrial areas on the Tamar for trade, commerce, education, processing, exporting and many Government services.

There is also a large movement of workers between present Council areas on a daily basis, mostly into and out of Launceston.

The diminution of representation and a lack of a "voice" to a larger Council is often raised as a reason against any amalgamation of lesser populated Council areas. This is often most vociferously promoted by current councillors, however, modern communication in this digital age should overcome this perception for all but a very small percentage of the population. Another way to counter this perceived problem in a larger Council would be to form small appointed representative groups in the outer, more remote areas to provide a "voice" on local matters.

A larger Council such as a greater northern Council has the greatest potential to minimise duplication and maximise benefits.

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