

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are writing to express our concerns regarding the proposed amalgamation of the LGAs in the NE region of Tasmania.

We are Landowners and Part Time residents of Flinders Island and have read the LG Review papers. We cannot see how this could work as the Furneaux Islands have their own specific needs due to the remote location together with logistical and environmental challenges. Merging with other Council/s with entirely different demographics could not work for the benefit of the residents of Flinders Island.

The challenges faced by the Furneaux Islands are unique, and bundling them together with another LGA might appear feasible on paper, but in reality it would only create more obstacles to the island's residents as they already struggle to implement regulations designed for Mainland Tasmanians.

The frustration of having to wait for services to be provided by other LGAs would only add to the logistical problems that are already faced by this community. It would fragment the governance and make the residents feel like decisions would be taken out of their hands.

This is already occurring to some degree and is not beneficial to those trying to work and live on Flinders Island when all the decisions are made "off the island" by people who don't understand the inherent challenges of living "on the island".

For example, Flinders Council is responsible for the ongoing upkeep of the Airport and Runway. If this was being maintained by another LGA, it may not be considered to be a top priority, and yet the Airlines, and the shipping are the lifeline of the island.

Locals need to manage Local issues.

Your consideration in this matter is imperative for the survival of the Furneaux Group.

Yours Faithfully,

Toni and Brendan Jones