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To: lg.consultation@dpac.tas.gov.au
Subject: Public Consultation re: Proposed Changes to Councillor Numbers and Allowances
Date: Friday, 7 November 2025 4:45:26 PM

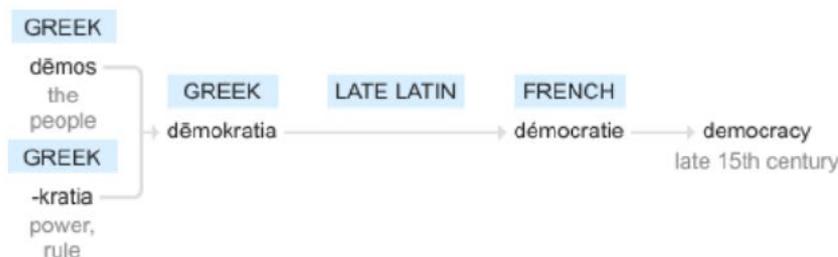
To Whom It May Concern,

Please find below some thoughts regarding the proposed changes:

Just like democracy itself, the word democracy is derived from ancient Greece and two Greek words, as shown below:



Origin



The truest form of democracy would involve all the people, or members of a community, making decisions collectively together. Modern representative democracy is a practical version of true democracy, designed to be easier to administer and to better express and manage the will and decisions of the people, but it inherently reduces the extent to which each individual's views can be adequately represented by any one representative, at either the local, state or federal level.

Reducing the number of councillors will, in my view, further reduce the degree of representation of the smaller and weaker voting groups in our local government elections, which already struggle to achieve effective representation. Some people might argue that councillors are there to represent the views of the whole community, and while this is of course true, the reality seems to be that most councillors, once elected, believe that they were chosen as a representative of their views, and vote and act as they think best, accordingly.

Even if there were an intention to save money by reducing the number of councillors, instead of redistributing the money saved as increased allowances, it would not, in my view, justify the further reduction, and hence weakening, of democratic representation that will result by cutting the number of councillors state wide.

It seems almost certain that the ideas, responses and suggestions that are brought to the council table by a smaller number of councillors will also be smaller. Further, a smaller number of councillors will have to do the same work, in terms of council committees and community consultation, which will make it harder for them to do their job as well, on top of other duties they may have outside of their work as a councillor.

The idea that we will somehow attract better people to the task of acting as councillors, by providing an approximately 14% rise in their allowance, from about \$17k to about \$20k in the case of our standard local councillors here in Dorset, seems hard to justify, as this is hardly the kind of allowance that would attract anyone motivated by money alone. I think most people who put their hand up to be councillors are not doing it for the money anyway, with the possible exception of the mayor and deputy mayor, who are on substantially higher allowances.

Providing councillors with "equal pay for equal work" and possibly a superannuation contribution seems reasonable and fair, providing that the process for selecting councillors for their roles is fair and equitable, and allows each councillor to take on as much work as they want to. Limiting the number of opportunities for them to be involved, as has been the case at our current council in Dorset, again limits and restricts free democratic participation, representation and good governance, in my opinion.

Responding to the specific questions as per the website:

Key questions include:

- Should we consider any strategies/guidance for council decision making where a quorum cannot be maintained?

The inability to achieve a quorum is another inherent flaw of the proposed changes, and another reason not to proceed with them in the case of the smaller councils in particular, in my view, and it highlights why the proposed changes are not sensible or beneficial for democracy.

- Should councillors' superannuation payments be mandatory?

In this day and age, when people are expected to fund their own retirement lifestyle from their superannuation, it seems only fair that councillors receive superannuation in keeping with the rest of society and their parliamentary peers.

