

30 March 2018

SUBMISSION to THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD

re proposed AMALGAMATION of SORELL & TASMAN COUNCILS.

Dear Sirs,

I lodge MY OBJECTION !

(1) THE DISADVANTAGED PEOPLE OF PORT ARTHUR/ CARNARVON BAY + STEWARTS BAY.

I understand there is a last minute groundswell of opposition to the proposed merger, and, that Petitions are circulating against it in Nubeena, but, I have heard nothing about it in Port Arthur (not because everybody here is in favour of the merger !), but, because, AS USUAL, we, the residents of Port Arthur are (since the death of our local Tasman Councillor, Roger Larner) the FORGOTTEN people " of Tasman, kept like mushrooms in the dark "!

Things for us in Port Arthur are only going to get worse for us once the Government's pet project (an Amalgamation) is implemented ! Already, in my opinion, all the money on improvements, beautification is spent on Nubeena as a local Councillor lives there and the Deputy Mayor, also, has a business in the main street .

About two years ago I took part in the Walk with Consultants which was supposed to give Port Arthur (Tasmania's premier tourist attraction !) an improved Streetscape and facilities: eg proper footpaths, more parking + a public toilet in Pt Arthur + more parking in Stewarts Bay . I have heard NOTHING since !

Will things improve for us the residents of Port Arthur in the future with a merger ? NO! NO! NO !

WHAT do I get for my high rates ? ZERO ! Somewhere amongst all the paper work I keep, there is a letter sent to me by the Tasman Council advising me that I will "NEVER " have rubbish collection in my road " AS IT IS TOO DANGEROUS "!

HOWEVER,

(1) about last year I was refused/ignored (in writing) by Tasman Council for 40 kilometre signage to be erected at the commencement of _____ where I live, and,

(2) for a Guard Rail to be installed on the dangerous, first blind corner where a number of Roll-overs and a Head-on (_____ : car completely written off by tourists !) have occurred. Reason given ? I suppose your guess is as good as mine ! I supposed Tasman Council deemed the road " NOT DANGEROUS ENOUGH " , BUT, " TOO DANGEROUS " FOR A RUBBISH COLLECTION !!! What sort of Logic is that ?

I think it is time we had a local Port Arthur representative on Council ! I suggest we go back to the system of Wards to try to stop all the cash splash eg on Nubeena's Walk along the beach front .

I agree it has been a good thing as it has made a big improvement to Nubeena's beautification and is used by people in wheelchairs from the local Nursing Home, but, what about us in Port Arthur?

How about we in Port Arthur/ Carnarvon Bay get the proposed lovely foot path so we, too, can easily go for health walks? We have many needs eg a better public

transport system than the ONLY bus which leaves Pt Arthur at 6 in the morning and departs Hobart at 3.55pm !

I am told that alone out of any East Coast Council areas, we of Tasman are alone in having only two doctors instead of three ! And, alone in not having any AFTER HOURS Medical Service or any doctor from 5pm Fridays until Monday mornings , when there are only three Emergency Appointments available if a person rings at 8.30 on the dot ! The line is usually jammed and some people miss out ! I am reliably informed, that at least one Council area on the East Coast (if not more ?) have a hospital. We have none. Our Medical Service was drastically reduced by removing any Weekend or After hours Medical Service when the Liberal Government came to power in 2014. Minister Ferguson refused to attend our Public Meetings. I resigned in disgust from the Liberal Party !

(2) THE CARROT OF REDUCED RATES if we Amalgamate !-

Does the government think we are all stupid, uneducated, country bumpkins and will believe the hype without any solid figures to prove that there will be the proposed "REDUCTION IN RATES "?

As for the wonky Statistics which "PROVE "that the majority of Tasman residents are " in favour" of Amalgamation, let me REMIND the government that a HUGE proportion of Tasman's residents are JEHOVAH WITNESS who do NOT participate because of their religious beliefs in voting at Government + Council elections , so, the figures that the " majority " of Tasman are in favour of amalgamation LIE !!! As well, there are Quakers (like someone I know who was raised as one) , who, similarly because of their religious beliefs do NOT take part in any voting or Consultation Process !

The "Local Government Board Review Consultation Paper "has only been available on REQUEST. I only received it the other day, and, as , due to an extremely painful leg and foot injury for many months I have had to rely on others to pick up my mail from the Pt Arthur Post Office. So, I apologise for this OBJECTION written in such haste !

Once again, we have been kept "like mushrooms in the dark " as the details of SORELL COUNCIL's RATING POLICY, in my opinion, have been DELIBERATELY OMITTED from the "Local Government Board Consultation "Paper. In the papers supplied to me it tells me this VITAL information is available upon request from Sorell Council !!! I have no time to do this now, so, I checked their Internet Site which told me Bugger All !

WHY were the details of Sorell's RATING POLICY withheld ? In my opinion, it was DELIBERATE , or, we would all be 100% be against amalgamation !

Sorell has a DIFFERENT Rating System to ours---so, WHY are its DETAILS withheld by exclusion from the Review Paper ? Rates in Sorell are HIGHER , and,

Sorell has a policy of INCREASING RATES EVERY YEAR, which is NOT the case in Tasman which reduced them last year !

I have read that statistically Tasman has the poorest, old people in Australia. We already pay very high Rates for little in return. WHY should we SUBSIDISE Sorell by paying higher rates to them ? I note that the majority of Sorell ratepayers want to amalgamate with us . WHY ? —benefit to them , but, not to us !

Will anything get better for us , eg better roads without potholes instead of our crowded- by- tourists goat- track euphemistically called a “ Highway “, or, perhaps a ferry service across Frederick Henry Bay, or a better bus or medical service, etc?

I bet , as usual, no improvements will happen !

(3) MY THIRD CONCERN IS THAT AMALGAMATION COMBINED WITH THE NEW STATE PLANNING LAWS will give, in my opinion,

UNDEMOCRATIC Power to the Minister to Fast Track (without any provision for OBJECTION in the courts) to HIGH-RISE monstrosities like in Melbourne + Sydney, buildings right on the boundary, taking away sunlight and privacy.

MY QUESTION TO (1) THE BOARD and to the (2) MINISTER is :-

Is this likely to happen with the property next-door to me at Port Arthur which has been bought by an Interstate Melbourne billionaire , a Developer and Real Estate Agent--- even though both his and my properties appear to be protected by inclusion in THE PORT ARTHUR WORLD HERITAGE BUFFER ZONE OVERLAY ? Will this “ protection “ hold , or, will the Minister’s proposed new powers dispense with the “protection “? I remain cynical . There is much improvement that could be done to the Tasman Peninsula to the economic and employment benefit of the locals without the need for amalgamation !

Yours sincerely,



A very concerned Countess Antonia Maria Violetta Scrivanich

(Attached is 1 Enclosure re Sorell Rates information off their internet site which does not tell me much!)



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Rates Information

How does Council value your property?

All properties within the Sorrell Municipal area are valued by the Valuer General in accordance with the Valuation of Land Act 2001 to determine a property's land value, its capital value and its assessed annual value:

- Land Value (LV) is the value of the property excluding all visible improvements such as buildings, structure, fixtures, roads, etc.
- Capital Value (CV) is the total value of the property and includes the land value.
- The Assessed Annual Value (AAV) of a property is the estimated yearly rental value of the property.

Planning a change or alteration?

If you are contemplating any change or alteration to your house, including extensions, demolitions or even building a new house, an important step in the process is to find out whether your proposal requires Council planning, building or plumbing approval prior to the commencement of work.

The Government Valuation Office undertakes revaluations for any change or alteration to your property. Once Council has been notified of these changes and approval given, the Government Valuation Office will be notified to revalue the property and an updated rates notice will be issued.

How are your Rates calculated?

The Value that is directly relevant to your rates is the Capital Value; Council has deemed this the most effective method in distributing their rating tax to its ratepayers.

If you do not agree with the Capital Value of your property, an objection may be lodged with the Office of the Valuer-General. The lodging of an objection however does not alter the requirement to pay rates when due.

Sorrell underwent a revaluation in 2016 and Capital Values were applied from 1 July 2017. Council's General Rate is split into two components; the first is deemed a fixed charge. This is derived by the total required General rate revenue multiplied by 41 percent divided by the number of ratable properties within the Sorrell Municipality, resulting in a rate of \$451.13 for 2017-2018.



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Pensioners eligible for assistance under the Local Government (Rates and Charges Remission) Act 1991 may receive a rebate as follows, noting that limits apply:

- State Government – 30% (maximum limits apply, as shown below)

(The 2017-18 maximum cap for the Pensioner Rates Remission is \$440 for those pensioners who are not a customer of a water and sewerage corporation and \$299 for those pensioners who are also a customer of a water and sewerage corporation).

- State Fire Commission – 20% (of the fire levy service rate).

Pensioners are eligible for a remission if they hold a current Pensioner Concession Card, Health Care Card or a Department of Veteran Affairs gold card (TPI) and are legally responsible for the rates on the property, which is their principal place of residence. In the case of joint ownership, at least one of the owners must meet the eligibility criteria. There is a limit of one remission per year per pensioner household.

Pensioners who received a remission last year should receive a remission automatically. Any pensioner who has not previously received a remission must complete an application form and possess a current Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) with a date of grant on or before 1st July of the current financial year.

It is necessary that current concession cards be presented to our Customer Service officers when submitting an application form.

Please note: Eligibility of a pensioner remission is determined by the State Government – Department of Treasury and Finance.

Methods of Payment

1. Payment In Person

The rates notice should be presented when making a payment at Sorell Council 47 Cole Street between 8.00am and 4.45pm, Monday to Friday.

2. Direct Debit

Payment can be made by direct debit. Direct Debit Forms can be found here or contact the Rates Office on 03 5269 0000.

Penalties and interest will apply to late payments. Please allow up to 3 business days for your payment to be applied to your account if you are paying any way other than direct to Council in person. This applies to the following methods of payment.

Refer below to "What if my Payment is Late?" for information on penalties and interest for late payment.

3. Telephone

From:
Sent: Wednesday, 4 April 2018 10:46 AM
To: Local Government Board (DPaC)
Subject: Amalgamation of Sorell + Tasman

To : The LOCAL GOVT BOARD.

Dear Sirs,

*** Please NOTE this is an ADJUNCT to my OBJECTION to the proposed Amalgamation of Sorell + Tasman Councils which was mailed " Express Post " on 31 March 2018 and should reach you by the deadline of 6 April 2018.

To me the whole thing smacks of DECEPTION ?

I had so little time to prepare my OBJECTION that it was written in great haste and in difficult circumstances because of my injuries which mean I rely (for now) on Community Transport or a kind neighbour to take me to the Post Office to collect my mail , pay bills, send mail, etc.

My MAIN OBJECTION is (as you will read when you receive my Objection) is the question of RATES ! I am NOT convinced by the KMPG Report of "benefits" to we Ratepayers of Tasman, because , in my opinion, the Report is INCOMPLETE , as it fails to provide calculated EXAMPLES of future Rates on Tasman properties using the VERY DIFFERENT Methodology used by Sorell Council !

So, I want ALL Tasman Ratepayers to be given (IN WRITING) COMPARATIVE examples of how their (1) Tasman rates were in 2017 (1) for :-eg properties worth, \$200, 000-00; \$300, 000-00; \$400, 000-00, \$500, 000-00, \$600, 000-00, and , \$700, 000-00, etc

AND,

(2) how much Sorell charged in 2017 for Rates on properties worth \$200, 000-00; \$300, 000-00 ; \$300, 000-00; \$400, 000-00: \$500, 000-00; \$600, 000-00, \$700, 000-00, etc !

Without this information none of us can make an INFORMED DECISION !

Unless each and everyone of us are given this extra , VITAL information IN WRITING, this proposed Amalgamation, is in my opinion, a CON JOB, meant to DECEIVE the Public who are being MISINFORMED, MISLED, FOOLED, ie "kept like mushrooms in the dark" of the effect an amalgamation between Sorell + Tasman Councils will have on their Rates ---by then it will be too late !

Yours ,

Countess Antonia Maria Violetta Scrivanich,



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From:
Sent: Wednesday, 4 April 2018 11:04 AM
To: Local Government Board (DPaC)
Subject: Sorell + Tasman Amalgamation
Attachments: 003.jpg

To : The Local Govt Board----

please attach this and another 2 pages (which will be coming separately) to my Objection dated 31 March 2108 + to my earlier email of today to the proposed Amalgamation of Sorell + Tasman. Attached is the first of 3 pages of COMPLAINT correspondence AND OBJECTION TO AMALGAMATION sent by me in 2017 to Tasman Council since we started sharing functions with Sorell.

Sincerely,
Countess Antonia Maria Violetta Scrivanich



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From:
Date: 01 May 2017 15:36
To: <lasman@tasman.fas.gov.au>
Subject: Complaint

To The Mayor and Councillors, on 28 April 2017 I received (8 days later !) your letter dated 20 April 2017, inviting me to attend your Council Meeting to to hear your response to my Complaints , so, I had no idea my matters were going to be on your agenda .

Currently , I am very sick (getting over Pneumonia) so, I have not been in touch, but, I want to add to my complaint about , Port Arthur that middle-aged men drive like maniacs here as if they are the ONLY people with a right to be on the road, as if they are in the Grand Prix !

In the space of one week (whilst using extreme caution) exiting my concealed entrance, I was nearly hit twice by men roaring UP the road. Once I was nearly hit on the driver's side, another time I was nearly rear-ended .

I thought to avoid a side-swiped collision I would travel up-hill, do a turn, and then proceed downhill in the direction of Pt Arthur, , but, it seems it makes NO difference with these irresponsible male drivers (young men are NOT the problem !) I kindly request (1) a sign stating "concealed entrances " (I am not the only one with a concealed entrance), and, (2) a reduction to 40kms speed limit.

Yours sincerely,
Countess Antonia M. V. Scrivanich,

From:
Sent: Wednesday, 4 April 2018 11:12 AM
To: Local Government Board (DPaC)
Subject: Amalgamation Sorell + Tasman
Attachments: 001.jpg

To :—The Local Govt Board ,
as promised here is page 2 to be added to my OBJECTION to Amalgamation dated 31
March 2018+ to various emails sent to you today by me. (Page 3 is coming).
Yours,
Countess Antonia Maria Violetta Scrivanich ,



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26 March
2017.

(COPY)

To Tamara Council,

- (1) ANALGAMATION
- (2) COMPLAINTS : Road + Council Taxes

I do not agree with any proposal for Analagamation!

Every Spring + Autumn my Rd, Pt. Arthur was re-surfaced, but, since Councillor Roger Warner died and our Works Manager at Nubena has been replaced by one in Sorrell (Partial Analagamation) no one cares about Pt. Arthur!

We, the residents of Lookout Rd pay some of the highest Rates, but, get nothing!

Lookout Rd is dirt, very narrow and a dangerous mountain road with no barriers on 3 tight, blind corners. It is only a matter of time before there is a fatality, or, someone is left seriously injured. We have had 2 Roll-Overs where a car has ^{dropped} metres into Warner land and another on the same corner where (who was dying of cancer at age about 36 and had 2 small children) had her car Written-Off by German tourists hurting down the mountain on the wrong side of the road. (There was no where for to pull over on this blind corner!) She is now dead.

I have had several near misses with trucks roaming down the mountain driving in the middle of this narrow, dirt track, but, not from the accident.

* Council is well-aware that the road is dangerous which is why it wrote to me that the road is

" TOO DANGEROUS TO EVER GET A RUBBISH COLLECTION!"

In the last 2 yrs (since control by Sorrell!) instead of being re-surfaced the usual 4 times, it has only been done once, +, ~~even though~~ the section past the Warner house has not been done at all! It is now a eroded, bone-chaking disgrace which does not carry the water away the first time it gets rain!

In 2016 (after prolonged and heated argument)

From:
Sent: Wednesday, 4 April 2018 11:46 AM
To: Local Government Board (DPaC)
Subject: Amalgamation Sorell + Tasman
Attachments: 002.jpg

To: The Local Govt Board.

Dear Sirs,

enclosed is page 3 as promised---to be attached to my Objection to Amalgamation of Sorell + Tasman---to be added to my Objection dated 31 March 2018 (posted Express Post) + to today's 3 other emails.

****Please NOTE: that SINCE WE SHARE FUNCTIONS WITH SORELL THINGS HAVE GOT WORSE and since I wrote those letters to Tasman Council in 2017 a number of dead and dying trees have crashed in 2018, blocking my road.

There are MANY other dead trees WITH NOT A LEAF ON THEM at the commencement of Lookout Rd + the Carnarvon Bay Rd. These are on PUBLIC LAND and constitute a real danger to the Public. Driving along Lookout Rd is like " playing Russian roulette " ! The reason why nothing is done about this danger to the Public appears to be a refusal by management to spend to have them removed !

After Rebecca White , MP contacted Tasman Council, the WORKS MANAGER FROM SORELL rang me in 2017 to meet him at my locked gate , where he proceeded to abuse me for having contacted her. I had NO choice as he would not do anything to re-seal my road which in 2017 was in a very bad condition, the WORST it had ever been since I have lived here for 16 years !. He refused to do anything about the dead trees on Public Land, saying his " SPENDING HAD GONE OVER BUDGET " .

If, as I am informed by Council, this land with MANY dead trees, belongs to The Port Arthur Historic Site, then , the cost of their removal is an expense of the PAHS which appears to be flush with money from increased tourism. So, WHAT is the real problem ?

This year I saw that Waterfall Bay Rd, Eagle Hawk Neck is in a dreadful condition. Yet many very lovely homes which , no doubt pay high Rates , run off it !

Yours Sincerely,

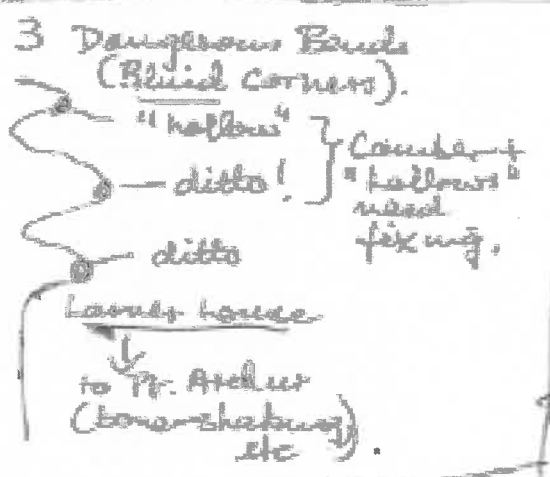
Countess Antonia Maria Violetta Scrivanich,



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visit our Small Waste Manager, and, only after I contacted Rebecca White, HP he was forced to cut down 2 Council Trees which were so dead they did not have a single leaf! They were a serious danger to the public as they were leaning right over the road at a 45 degree angle and could have fallen in the first Gale Force wind (we get these all the time!) Over the years many Council Wattle trees have fallen blocking the road. Previously, the local Works Crew used to remove them immediately, what now? I've had to help in 2015 3 women shift a tree off the road (I am only a woman too, with a large Patch holding my Hernia!) Council has a "Duty of Care" to the Public, to ensure their safety on the roads.

The one and only re-surfacing in the last 2 years has been so poorly done that the Road Camber points down on 2 blind corners towards the steep drop-off into the Tree Plantation, and, the Council has created in those 2 spots a sort of hollow (or "basin") right on the edge, forcing vehicles to either drive in the middle of this narrow, winding, dirt track, or, to drive completely on the wrong side of the road on these 2 blind corners! Some poor mug driving on their side can be hit. Another dangerous accident is only a matter of time!



- Roadside Speed limit sign of 40 laws needed.
- (2) Cambers + "hollows" fixed
 - (3) Safety Barriers on the 3 dangerous blind corners
 - (4) re-surfacing NOW due for whole road, including past the house at Rel. in direction of Historic Site.

Please give all these matters your urgent attention, + note I do NOT agree with ANY Council Amalgamation as things will only get worse for my neighbours and I!

Yours,
 Antonia

COUNTESS ANTONIA M.V. SCRIVANICK

* P.S. Please place this letter on the Agenda for the next Council Meeting + respond in writing to me.