
From:
Sent: Friday, 6 April 2018 4:39 PM
To: Local Government Board (DPaC)
Subject: Proposed Tasman Sorell voluntary amalgamation - written response

Attention: Department of Premier and Cabinet – Local Government Board

Re: Proposed Tasman Sorell voluntary amalgamation

In regards to the proposed amalgamation of the Tasman and Sorell Councils, I would like to let it be known that I am strongly opposed to this amalgamation and represent a facet of the community who are also strongly opposed.

Please refer to this link at [change.org](https://www.change.org/p/tasman-council-stop-the-amalgamation-of-tasman-and-sorell-councils-save-your-local-council) where a segment of some 600 Tasman residents, ratepayers, businesses and visitors have expressed their opposition to the proposed voluntary amalgamation:

<https://www.change.org/p/tasman-council-stop-the-amalgamation-of-tasman-and-sorell-councils-save-your-local-council>

I disagree that the level of service for communities would improve.

It seems inevitable that with the focus of the proposed amalgamation being that of financial consolidation, the social implications have been largely overlooked. It is in considering the inevitable negative social implications to the Tasman community, that the service the community requires to maintain its integrity becomes apparent. With the current studies having taken little or no interest in this aspect of potential negative impacts, the proposal based on current studies is flawed beyond measure.

While pursuing financial efficiencies is an essential aspect of good governance, this task must be performed within the framework of broader community values stated in the councils own mission statement: 'Fostering and supporting community participation and involvement, tolerance and pride in our community'. This is best achieved by a local council acting as a focus for community activity and enterprise - that local council being best represented by councillors with a direct representation of the people in the municipality effecting the geographical area that they reside.

I disagree that the financial status of both entities would be strengthened.

With regards a potential Sorell / Tasman merger the KPMG report claims an overall neutral financial outcome but conveniently ignores several impacts. For example the greater part of a stated cost saving of \$1.3 m p/a would come from a \$944,443 p/a reduction in employment costs. The burden of these job losses would predominantly impact the Tasman community rather than Sorell, which would be the seat of the larger newly formed council. The social effects of this in the Tasman community as a result of the decentralised council, which would be located in the Sorell community would also have a strong negative impact.

Preserve and maintain local representation:

The proposed 'wards' deemed to represent the Tasman Municipality at the onset of the proposed voluntary amalgamation, would not provide a long term representation of the municipality, negatively impacting the level of local representation.

Tasman being a remote community would become more socially isolated by a Tasman/Sorell Council amalgamation, with the local representation initially by proposed wards being rendered eventually to elected councillors, who would have a statistical advantage in the current Sorell municipality due to the majority of ratepayers and residents of the proposed council being in the current Sorell municipality. The current Tasman municipality would certainly be negatively impacted with local representation diminished – the key to local representation being that of constituents representing the council by which they are directly effected by local government proposals, policies and actions.

Furthermore the social implications of the proposed voluntary amalgamation would have greater negative effects on the Tasman municipality and community, and have not been considered thoroughly in the review process. This is ultimately not in the interests of ratepayers.

Angela Lowe

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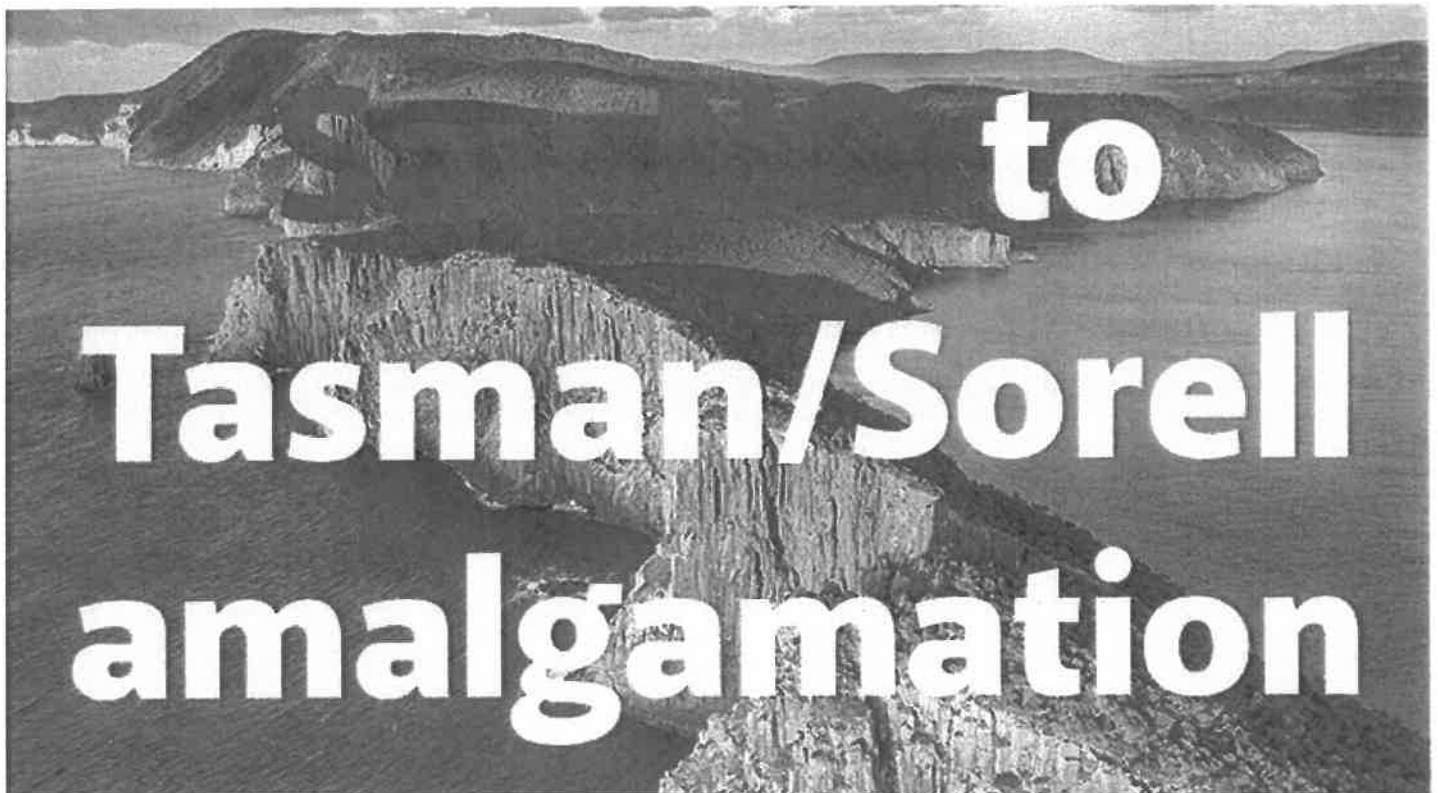
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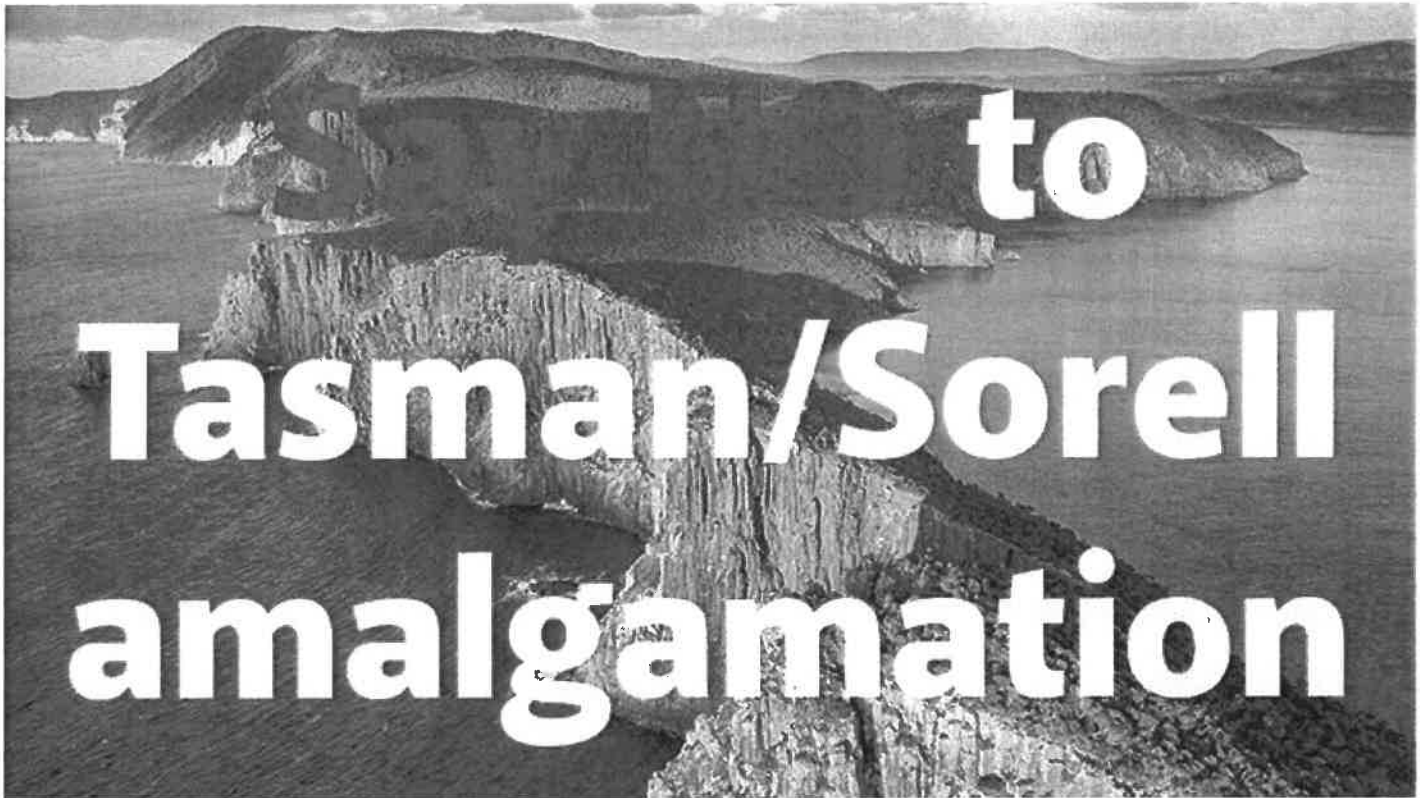
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Stop the amalgamation of Tasman and Sorell councils - Save your local council



94 have signed. Let's get to 100!



Angela Lowe started this petition to Tasman Council and 1 other

Petition against the amalgamation of Tasman Council

We the undersigned electors, residents, ratepayers, visitors, and businesses within the area of the Tasman Municipality are strongly opposed to the amalgamation of Tasman Council with Sorell Council or any other council.

We reject that this proposed merging of Tasman with Sorell Council be in the interests of ratepayers; will improve the level of service for communities; will preserve and maintain local representation; and will ensure that the financial status of the entities is strengthened.

The proposed 'wards' deemed to represent the Tasman Municipality at the onset of the proposed voluntary amalgamation, would not provide a long term representation of the municipality, negatively impacting the level of local representation.

Furthermore the social implications of the proposed voluntary amalgamation would have greater negative effects on the Tasman municipality and community, and have not been considered thoroughly in the review process.

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This petition starter stood up and took action. Will you do the same?