

5th April 2018.

Mr. David Parker,

**Sorell and Tasman Councils Review Submissions,
Local Government Board,
GPO Box 123,
HOBART. TAS. 7001.**

Mr. Paul Parker,

Dear Local Government Board Members,

Re: Submission against the amalgamation of Tasman Council with Sorell Council.

As a parent and grandparent of school aged children who attend Tasman District School, we believe it's important to provide our perspective of the detrimental effect to Tasman District School if Tasman Council were to be amalgamated with Sorell Council.

The School, Tassal, the Port Arthur Historic Site, the Multi-Purpose Service Centre, fishing and farming, and Tasman Council are considered major employers in the Tasman region. Tasman Council has 20 full-time equivalent employees. When they lose their jobs at Tasman Council, employment isn't easy to find in the Tasman Municipality, so they will most likely need to relocate to gain employment. Remove these employees, their husbands or wives and children from our community, a total estimated to be somewhere in the vicinity of 80 to 100 residents, this will have a devastatingly negative effect on our community. In a small community such as ours the devastating effect on our School, Shops, Doctors, Pharmacy, Banks, Post Offices and the list goes on and on and the knock on effect that this would cause would be very difficult for the community to recover from and could well be the destruction of our community and our school. Councils are supposed to support and build rural communities, not destroy them.

Tasman Council plays a vital role in the annual immunisation program for school aged children. Tasman Council ensures that correct quantities of the vaccination for each child is ordered and received and they record the immunisation details for each child to report to the Department of Health to ensure each child is recorded as having received the required immunisations.

We have witnessed the various Tasman Mayors over the years making and maintaining good working relationships with the school community and their attendance at the school is appreciated by teachers, parents, grandparents and children alike. Each year the Mayor attends the Annual Academic Achievement Assembly and presents various awards, donated by Tasman Council, to the children for their various outstanding academic achievements.

The Tasman Mayors have at other times in the past presented awards (donated by the Council) during the year to students involved in community activities, for example, Clean Up Australia Day.

At the invitation of the school or students, Tasman Mayors and Councillors have attended many other special events, launches, open days, or special lunches cooked and served by the students, as part of their normal curriculum.

This good relationship between Tasman Council and Tasman District School provides both the Councillors and school students with an important opportunity to interact with each other and allows the students to get to know their Local Government Representatives and to gain an understanding of the three spheres of government within Australia, starting with the most important sphere, Local Government.

This vital interaction with Tasman District students and their local representatives may inspire our students to take on leadership roles in the future or to seek local employment at Tasman Council.

We fear that if Tasman Council is amalgamated with Sorell Council much of this interaction will be lost. We can't imagine that the Sorell Mayor or Councillors will be available to continue this level of interaction with Tasman District School students. The students, if lucky, may see the Sorell Mayor once a year at the Academic Achievement Assembly. It would be a great shame for our students to lose this regular and positive interaction with Tasman Councillors.

If a merger was to take place, we feel that this would be detrimental to the Tasman District School students.

We believe it is vital that Tasman Council maintains its independence from Sorell Council and we humbly ask you to make the right decision and leave Tasman Council to stand alone.

Yours sincerely,

David Parker – Parent

Paul Parker – Grandparent