

Submission to the Local Government Review Board

OBJECTION TO THE PROPOSED MERGER OF TASMAN AND SORELL COUNCILS

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write to advise of my objection to the amalgamation of Sorell and Tasman Councils.

I am ratepayer and a resident of the Tasman Peninsula for over 50 years and a former Tasman Councillor.

My primary concern is the loss of representation created with an amalgamated council. With only one (or even two) councillors representing the whole of the Peninsula our voice will be lost amongst the largely urban population of Sorell. I am of the strong opinion that this is a real native for residents and decision making that affects them.

Benefits for residents are not gained by amalgamating the Tasman Community Council. They will be worse off from representational viewpoint and economically.

When defining electoral boundaries, the various electoral commissions consider communities of interest as a major factor. Tasman is a very definable community - geographically, socially and economically. The issues and considerations they need to be given require an understanding of the community and its aspirations. To have a small voice in a merged council will negate this.

Financially, the Tasman Council is strong. There is no need to think this is a reason to merge. Tasman has been prudent over the years and has been built into a economically sound position. We don't want this being jeopardised.

Tasman Peninsula faces many challenges into the future. Redefining its role in the development of the tourism industry, attracting investment and jobs into the region and maintaining its national parks and natural beauty are part of this mix. As we progress on this journey, the community need to be broadly and fairly represented by people who are part of the community and accountable to them. A merged council, with little representation from Tasman does not achieve an equitable outcome.

I urge the State government to abandon this merger proposal and maintain the Tasman Council as is own entity.

Yours sincerely,

David Macdonald