

## **Gary Alexander – Approved summary of verbal submission**

Tasman Public Hearing - 27 March 2018 at 3.00pm

I am critical of the public consultation process carried out by Tasman Council leading up to this review – it was not community consultation. To only send out a letter that required a return, only by email, to only five options. Only 301 people answered the consultation so the 74.25% support for amalgamation does not accurately reflect the Tasman community.

Also, there was a long time between receiving the letter and being able to fill out the survey, the system crashed for a week so you could not fill out the survey, and most of the Tasman peninsula are not computer literate or do not own a computer. The Council offered to fill out the online survey for those without a computer but there is no public transport system on the peninsula to assist elderly or disabled people to attend the council office. The community wanted community consultation where there were public meetings where people could attend and share their views, ask questions and get answers. In my opinion, it was a very, very bad community consultation. Not everyone got the Tasman Council's consultation letter and didn't know about the process.

The Tasman Council has worked very successfully and independently for over 100 years. I am a former Councillor of 11 years and aware of the work done by the Council. You only have to go around and see the progress made. You will have people say that more could be done. We now have sealed road where there were dirt roads. They may not be the best roads but they are roads.

I have concerns about what will happen to Council staff in an amalgamation – they have mortgages, they have kids in schools. All the jobs will be based in Sorell and the staff will have to leave because they won't be able to get other jobs because of their particular skill set, no matter how many firms start up in the area.

Amalgamation has not worked on the mainland and there are even de-amalgamations. It is unfortunate that Tasman councillors did not do what another area's councillors did and went around with a questionnaire talking to residents to make an informed decision on behalf of their community. I am talking about Glamorgan-Spring Bay Council.

I am dead against the amalgamation of Tasman and Sorell Councils. Tasman Council is financially viable, and have been for a lot of years, with a good office staff and work crew. Of the 3 options, I would prefer Option 1 that the councils stay autonomous and go for continued resource-sharing because we have been doing it for years with Brighton and Sorell Councils not just because of the talk around this review. When I was on council, I could see that we did not need expertise sitting for five days a week and doing two or three days of work. I think the current arrangements for resource-sharing should continue which to me is continuing with the status quo keeping Tasman Council as is.

Summary approved by Gary Alexander on 13 April 2018.