

22nd March 2018.

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

Mrs. Joan E. Fazackerlev.

Dear Local Government Board Members,

**Submission against the amalgamation of Tasman Council with Sorell Council, or any other Council.**

I am strongly opposed to the amalgamation of Tasman Council with Sorell Council or any other Council for that matter.

Tasman is a comparatively larger municipality than Sorell, it is a rural area with scattered communities and I think we need our council. Sorell has become a suburb of Hobart and Clarence and it would be far more appropriate for Sorell to be amalgamated with Clarence or Hobart or both.

We know all of our Councillors and can have a chat with them in the street or phone them to discuss our issues or we can drop into the office and complete a public request form or to conduct other council business. Once amalgamation occurs this will all stop! If we have to travel to Sorell to conduct council business, we will eat there, shop there, bank there, utilise the pharmacies and probably visit doctors and conduct other business there, this will be financially devastating for the Tasman communities.

I was a Councillor on Tasman Council for nineteen years, I didn't recontest my seat due to ill health and moved to Glenorchy to be closer to family and lived there for five years, until I moved back to paradise at Nubeena. At Glenorchy I found that I had no idea who my Councillors were and to pay my rates was a very impersonal experience, no pleasantries and very business-like, and I found Glenorchy to be a very unfriendly and hostile place. At Tasman you know all of the staff and they are happy to chat whilst you conduct your Council business. If we amalgamate with Sorell we'll end up like Glenorchy, we'll just be a number, not a person, the local will gone out of local government.

With the expansion of Tassal, promising over seventy new jobs, major upgrades to the school, the cruise ships into the Port Arthur Historic Site, the Three Capes Track, Shipstern Bluff (becoming iconic for surfies), game fishing at Pirates Bay and the new businesses such as the Lavender Farm, Whisky Distillery, vineyards, and planned new major developments such as The Remarkable Lodge and Federal Hotels development, and the list goes on, alongside our existing businesses, our Municipality is booming. Why cause all of this disruption and anguish with discussions of amalgamating with Sorell, we don't want or need Sorell interfering.

Further to this, property sales are skyrocketing and it is virtually impossible to find long term rental accommodation. All of this bodes well for our Municipality, why amalgamate.

Our smaller sporting and social facilities such as the Premaydena Recreation Ground, Saltwater River Hall, Koonya Hall and Grounds and Nubeena Tennis Club etc., what will happen to all of these facilities, will Sorell just close them down and sell them off.

Many of the major public buildings within this municipality have been built (or partially built) by community members, with hours of voluntary labour and thousands of hard earned dollars donated. For example: The Civic Centre, The Community Centre, The Independent Living Units, The S.E.S. Building, just to name a few. What happens to these community assets once we're amalgamated with

Sorell. Also does Sorell still have that same sense of community, would their residents band together to build something they want or see a need for, or would they expect the council to build it for them. Volunteering is vital to Tasman, for example, service clubs, sporting organisations, the men's shed and op shop, volunteer fire fighters, S.E.S., Ambulance, committees to organise annual events and the list goes on and on.

The Tasman municipality is virtually an island, quite isolated, and for many of us over an hour away from Sorell. When major disasters strike like the devastating 2013 bushfires, we were left with no power and no access in or out for days. We had to revert to utilising boats to provide necessities and ship people in and out of the municipality. Tasman councillors did the best they could under extremely difficult and stressful circumstances and at least they were here. Where would we be as part of the Sorell municipality, the Sorell councillors wouldn't have been able to gain access to us to render assistance. The Port Arthur tragedy is also another example. Following both of these tragic events, Tasman Council was instrumental in the recovery process, which took years and for some probably will never be totally finalised.

During the bushfires, as a Councillor, I spent at least five days outside of the Civic Centre at Nubeena, with an old twin tub washing machine, hooked up to a generator, washing tea towels, dishcloths, etc., and constantly cleaning and sterilizing tables and surfaces to ensure nobody got sick. With at least 2000 people and their cats and dogs at the Civic Centre, in extreme and unbearable heat, this was an extremely difficult situation, given there was no power to operate the pumps, so the water and excrement would be flowing across the floor from the toilets and all of this also needed to be constantly cleaned up. I couldn't imagine that Sorell Councillors would do that for our community in a crisis, even if they could access us. Would they even bother to drive down to take a look.

Although, I'm <sup>happy</sup> ~~happy~~ to continue with the existing resource sharing arrangements, I believe we should have our own dedicated General Manager. Given the current amalgamation discussions between Tasman and Sorell, I believe the General Manager has a conflict of interest.

The proposed amalgamation appears to be change for change sake, without any logical justification for doing so and is most certainly not in the best interests of Tasman ratepayers and will not improve the level of services for Tasman communities. Why amalgamate and make us even more isolated and disadvantaged.

Yours sincerely,

Joan Fazackerley