



President: Julie Wiltshire

Secretary: Christine Beven

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4th April 2018

Secretariat  
Local Government Board  
Hobart Tasmania 7000

Dear Sir

**Re: Review of South East Councils Voluntary Amalgamation Options**

At a recent meeting of the Coal River Valley Garden Club Inc, which was attended by 35 members, the issue of the recent request of Sorell and Tasman Councils to adjust existing municipal boundaries to merge Richmond and Cambridge with Sorell and Tasman was discussed.

A motion was passed to formally respond to you regarding this and to advise that members do not agree with the above mentioned suggested alteration to municipal boundaries.

Concerns raised include Clarence Council has invested rate payers funds heavily in both the Cambridge and Richmond areas, and from the community consultation survey conducted by Clarence Council, ratepayers strongly elected to remain with the current Clarence Council. A merger with Sorell and Tasman Councils was not an option at the time of the consultation, which means that there has not been community consultation for this option.

Members strongly acknowledge the support and work by the Clarence Council and their maintenance and garden team in beautifying and maintaining the gardens, parks and surrounding areas of the Richmond village. The Clarence Council has invested heavily for some years in promoting Richmond as a historic Tourist destination.

As Clarence Council opted not to participate in the Local Government Board Review requested by Sorell and Tasman Councils, the option of parts of Clarence Council being considered for inclusion with Sorell and Tasman Councils does not appear to sit within the scope of the Review.

In summary, the Coal River Valley Garden Club Inc wish to support the Clarence Council's decision not to participate in any voluntary amalgamations.

Yours faithfully

*Julie Wiltshire*

Julie Wiltshire  
President

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