

21-3-2018.

I don't quite understand why we are placed in this unnecessary ^{unfair} position to-day.

I believe the voluntary amalgamation was poorly advertised, so therefore the outcome of voting results can only be inaccurate.

- ① For what reasons is our Mayor and the majority of Councillors supporting the voluntary amalgamation of our local Tasman Council with Sorrell Council?
- ② For what reason was the residents of the Tasman Municipality, denied a public meeting?
- ③ For what reason was there an on-line survey process to vote, rather than a simple Yes or No Vote on paper, included with rates notices.

Remembering not everyone is computer literate, especially middle age to elderly. Not everyone owns a computer.

On the 18th of March I was campaigning out and about local areas, in the attempt of saving our Tasman Council, only too many residents were lacking Council information about the amalgamation, this was not surprising after reading the alarming results of a 74% outcome of 301 rate payers votes on line survey, in favour of an amalgamation. However this is only 10% of the places population, of which is dishonest.

In disgust, a petition was organised against the amalgamation of Tasman Council, with an overwhelming result of 501 ratepayers, names and signatures.

This informs us that given the right opportunities to vote correctly, the outcome would have been different.

④ Progress of Council is stagnant says an elected Councillor, Newspaper advertising says this is untrue. Accordingly from January 2018 until now, there has been approximately 40 applications for building permits Council. This is proof that the place is growing, not of being stagnant.

⑤ Has the Tasman Council staff been led to believe they are going to keep their jobs. Because if Sorrell Council does not remove Tasman Council staff, there would not be a streamlining of services, where will the savings be made. Tasman Council has 19 or 20 full time equivalent employees. When they lose their jobs, 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. School, shops, doctors, Pharmacy, Banks, Post Offices and the list goes on and on, so no doubt this could well see the destruction of our community.

⑥ Security, as we need within any Council, especially our own rural Council. We have experienced two devastating disasters in the past and most recent times in this Municipality, one back in the year 1996, the Port Arthur Massacre and another in 2013, the bushfires. My personal view in keeping our Tasman Council standing alone is very important, speaking from experience. Distances apart from both councils are 70 kms, which makes us very isolated. At the times of these incidents the serving Mayors carried

out their duties with great care in supporting and understanding our communities needs. Taking on board some painful family crisis, apart from offering financial assistance, no governing bodies can pursue what a local council body can fulfil personally, therefore our very own Tasman Council is number one priority, not South.

① As ratepayers in Queensland we have experienced amalgamation first hand. Emergers of Noosa Shire Council with Maroochy Shire Council was an amalgamation failure. (Related in a forced deal amalgamation).
(Findings: ① The amalgamation was much more costly than expected.
② There are still opportunities for significant reform learnt.: Through extensive regional collaboration and shared services, without the need for widespread amalgamations.

③ Public consultation is critical for the success of amalgamation.

(A big mistake made here by Tasman Council.)
④ The policy de-amalgamation can cause irreversible community agitation at the amalgamation process, reducing the chances of successful reform in the future.

⑧ Back in year 1993 we went through much the same process, only I must say we were allowed a public meeting. It's a tireless, costly, exercise, one that we oppose strongly against, especially knowing ^{already} our Council is financially well off and running efficiently. Tasman Municipality have many valuable assets for tourism and employment, Port Arthur Historic Site, 3 Capes walk, Pennicott Boat Cruises, Tassal Salmon Farms, Tasman District High School, Ambulance Station, Huon Regional Nursing Home and Medical Centre, Bendigo Bank, Pharmacy, Motels, Caravan Parks, supermarkets & many more small
Police, SES & Fire BRIGADE STATIONS
manned

businesses.

⑨ One of my greatest concerns, is the on going maintenance and care of our own council roads. I read Sorrell has a large area of Council roads to repair and look after, without the interest of ours included. Tasman roads are spread out over a large area, far and wide. Attention must be given to these roads at all times, because the majority of our Council roads are gravel, so that says it all. We need our own works crew of Council men + additional, which is a big ask. Under amalgamation are we going to be guaranteed these continued local services. I would be very doubtful.

⑩ At this moment we have no network coverage for mobile phones, and also an interference with computers. However this occurrence has been hanging around for roughly a month, where the network drops in and out. I realize this matter is a private business concern, but this also lets us know our isolation despair, our frustrations and urgency to have our local council nearby for standby security reasons.

⑪ As a working council body our current viabilities are very stable and appear to be looking pretty damn good, but never can we look into the futures long term viability, perhaps get some ideas has an estimation, but we all know facts and figures can change dramatically, no different to ones life. Work with the now future, extend our resource shared services, if need be, but never close the doors on a well managed financial rural council and lets keep our own local identity (Tasman Municipality).

(12) Shame on the Mayor and elected Councilors, who were voted to work for the Municipality, not to give us away. A very disappointing outcome on a taxpayers behalf.

Rita Parker