
From:
Sent: Thursday, 5 April 2018 9:51 PM
To: Local Government Board (DPaC); ald_dchipman@ccc.tas.gov.au;
ald_hchong@ccc.tas.gov.au
Cc: will.hodgman@parliament.tas.gov.au
Subject: Potential mergers of Sorell and Tasman Councils and possible municipal boundaries changes

To whom it may concern,

We write to express our concern regarding the recently completed Local Government Board Review report dated February 2018 concerning the potential mergers of Sorell and Tasman Councils. In the report, which has been released for public comment, on page 23, leaves the possibility open for the municipal boundaries to be changed which may lead to the township of Richmond coming under the Sorell Council.

As long term residents of Richmond, we remember the initial trauma and uncertainty associated with the merging of Richmond Council into Clarence City Council (Clarence) as to how we as landholders and ratepayers and the the Township would be dealt with. It has now been 25 years since that merger and our view is that Clarence is doing an outstanding job concerning infrastructure and the maintaining of facilities in Richmond.

Clarence has completed and is continuing to systematically upgrade streets and footpaths within the Village itself, provided new public toilets and Bus /Car park in Franklin Street, the proposed development of the lane to the bus park and developments of Saleyard Corner, maintenance /restoration of the Old Courthouse Building and surrounds of the Soldiers Cross, refurbishment of the Richmond Hall and Supper Room to name but a few.

Clarence has also worked closely since merger with the Community by way of the Richmond Advisory Committee which consists of representatives from the various community groups within Richmond. This Committee allows the community to have direct input to and feedback on decision making with respect to Richmond Community. The Richmond Advisory Committee will celebrate its 25th anniversary this month of a unique relationship and achievement.

A relationship has also been built up between community groups and Clarence employees - ie Richmond Football Club who work closely with Clarence in the upkeep, maintenance and development of the grounds and facilities, Richmond Red Cross by providing assistance with arrangements for the annual Anzac Day Service and maintenance of the memorial garden, Village Fair Committee with the Village Fair.

Should the municipal boundaries be changed and Richmond was to be part of Sorell municipality, we would have serious concerns in respect of Sorell Council's ability to also manage Richmond from a financial and management perspective to the same standard as Clarence.

Yours sincerely,

Philip and Karyn Johnston