

The Future of Local Government Review

Submission on the Final Report

Derwent Valley Council – 29 February 2024

Derwent Valley Council supports recommendation number 10 in the final report:

Give councils the opportunity to design identified shared service arrangements themselves, with a model only being imposed if councils cannot reach consensus.

Council advocates two areas of shared service arrangements that would best meet the challenges and opportunities facing our community in the next 20-30 years.

Firstly,

to restate its original submission to the Board to:

Work more closely with the Southern Central Sub-Region councils to increase organizational capacity and quality of service delivery.

Council has taken steps to progress this, conversing with its neighbouring councils and withdrawing from the Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority (STCA).

The STCA was formed to encompass all 12 southern councils as the peak regional body for the south. In recent years, Clarence City, Glenorchy City, and Kingborough Councils left the STCA, which then only comprised Hobart City Council and eight small southern councils. This means that it does not represent the southern councils as a united region.

Moving forward, Council intends to progress meaningful resource sharing and messaging with the sub-region Huon Valley Councils rather than being part of a larger regional group.

Secondly,

to restate its original submission to the Board to:

Recommend and support the establishment of a new entity for the service delivery of waste management for the 12 southern Tasmanian councils.

Council contends that the current arrangements of waste management for southern Tasmanian councils are not sustainable. It is Council's assertion that no single council in the south is large enough or has the financial capacity to keep abreast of increasing regulatory requirements and public expectations for contemporary waste management.

Southern Tasmanian councils should follow the well-established practice of councils in other states to work together to provide such services for their communities.

As stated in Council's original submission such a regional authority would:

- Provide economies of scale from the larger operation
- Remove onerous reporting and management functions from member councils
- Improve the ability to embrace new technologies and initiatives
- Provide consistency and equal service provision across the region
- Improve educational programs
- Allow partnerships with government such as Parks and Wildlife waste management
- Provide common and consistent pricing across the region
- Provide best practice waste management services to residents of small councils.

As such an authority is not contemplated in the Local Government Board recommendations Derwent Valley Council will endeavour to progress this with our sub-region councils.