



**dorset**  
COUNCIL

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Dear Minister Street

## SUBMISSION IN RELATION TO FINAL REPORT – THE FUTURE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the final report in relation to the future of local government review from the perspective of Dorset Council.

Recommendation 4 (page 58 of 200) recommends certain Local Government Areas (LGAs) work towards formal amalgamation proposals. Dorset Council has not been included in the phase 1 council amalgamation proposal, however the final report does recommend changes to the Dorset LGA. The final report recommends the “North-East” Council whereby the Dorset LGA would include rural areas to the west from George Town LGA and to the south-west incorporating parts of the City of Launceston LGA. Dorset Council is supportive of this recommendation which conceptually agrees to Council’s stage 2 interim report submission as endorsed by Council in the 17 July 2023 Council Meeting (Minute No. 108/23, Reference DOC/23/8155).

In relation to the North-East Council as proposed in the final report, Dorset Council propose the Board consider the North West areas of the Break O’Day LGA (BODC LGA). Dorset Council’s stage 2 interim report submission as endorsed by Council in the 17 July 2023 Council Meeting (Minute No. 108/23, Reference DOC/23/8155) included the following view adopted by Council in relation to the boundary of the Dorset LGA and BODC LGA:

*Weldborough and the Blue Tier mountain bike trails could be transferred to Dorset given that Dorset already maintains this important part of the Blue Derby mountain bike trail network. Additionally, Weldborough residents go to school, play sport, shop, work and socialise mainly in the Dorset municipality mainly due to the inaccessibility of the Tasman Highway linking Break O'Day and Dorset. This area is also serviced by Dorset companies in terms of both inbound and outbound freight.*

*There is a second area west of Ansons Bay which contains two large farms (Telegraph and Ansons Meadows) and several smaller farms who similarly are serviced by Dorset based companies and whose residents also attend school, play sport, shop and socialise mainly in Dorset. This area should be considered for inclusion in the Dorset municipality via negotiation with Break O'Day Council.*

Dorset and BODC have had very high level discussions in relation to both the above mentioned areas. There was appetite from both sides to investigate the possible LGA boundaries between BODC and Dorset. A proposed review of the Dorset and BODC LGA boundaries was agreed to best occur when the Dorset LGA are in a position to conduct full feasibility modelling and costings conducted for the North-East catchment. This would best align with the Boards intent for next phase of voluntary amalgamation discussions in mid-2025 per the page 15 of 200 of the final report.

In relation to mandatory shared services, Dorset Council are supportive of LGAs undertaking reviews in relation to shared services models on a voluntary basis, as opposed to this being mandated. Dorset Council have been fully involved with workshops on the final report, including Dorset Council's position in relation to mandated shared services, with the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT). Dorset Council stand behind LGATs submission in relation to shared services and highlight the further work required by the State Government to attain broad sector support for mandating shared services. The workshops on this point highlighted a clear division in the Local Government sector.

[Redacted signature area]

Yours sincerely



John Marik  
**General Manager**