



Friends of North Bruny

SUBMISSION IN RELATION TO FINAL REPORT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD INTO THE FUTURE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN TASMANIA

Friends of North Bruny Inc. (FONB) made a submission last year in relation to the Community Catchment Information Pack stage of the Future of Local Government review being conducted by the Local Government Board. That submission can be seen [here](#). It was lodged with the Board on 3 August 2023.

We now make this brief submission in relation to the Board's final report.

We continue to support the potential amalgamation of the Huon and Kingborough Councils, because we believe that the economies of scale that this would provide would facilitate the provision to Bruny Island of the level of local government services that are needed, particularly in the face of the extraordinary number of visitors that the island is receiving, and the demands that these visitors are making upon the island's infrastructure.

As submitted earlier, we believe that the main offices of the proposed new Southern Shore Council should be based in Kingston, and that the Bruny Island population would be disadvantaged by locating these in Huonville. This might be considered a matter of detail to be worked out later, but it is an issue of such significance to the island that it would have been valuable for it to be addressed in the final report.

We are pleased that the Board has not accepted the proposal by Kingborough Council for an investigation into the creation of a board of management for Bruny Island along the lines of that which exists on Lord Howe Island. We addressed this notion at length in our previous submissions, and see no reason now to add to what we said there. The circumstances that face Bruny Island and Lord Howe Island are very different indeed.

We are also pleased to see that the Board's final report encourages the responsible Council and the State government to look into the imposition of a levy on tourists arriving on Bruny Island. This is becoming increasingly necessary as the number of visitors coming to the island

continues to grow. The burden of providing the necessary infrastructure should not fall solely on the ratepayers of the municipality. A levy might also assist with funding the proper protection of the island's environment from this influx.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Allston', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Simon Allston
Chair

27 February 2024