



Wednesday 26 July 2023

Circular Head Council makes final submission to LG Review Process

Circular Head Council (CHC) has made a submission to Stage 3 of the ongoing *Review of local government in Tasmania*.

The submission proposes that Circular Head Council joins up with Waratah Wynyard Council (WWC), which aligns with the Review Board's Scenario 2 for the Western Catchment. WWC has also proposed Scenario 2.

Circular Head Mayor Gerard Blizzard said *"While forced amalgamations are off the table, the Local Government Board has made the case for reform and the issues and challenges facing Local Government in Tasmania haven't gone away.*

Circular Head Council also recognises the need for change. We've been in partnership with Waratah Wynyard Council for over a decade through extensive resource sharing arrangements and we believe that formalising an even stronger bond will achieve the best outcomes for the community," said Mayor Blizzard.

The Tasmanian Government has agreed that proposals will be developed into plans through detailed negotiation and that the communities affected by proposed reforms will have the chance to vote on the outcome of those negotiations.

Council intends to bring a range of issues to the negotiating table to help set a new council up for success including:

- a) Funding for future Health and Wellbeing initiatives, so that council can do more in this space
- b) A fair share of the Heavy Vehicle Tax to help maintain our roads
- c) A share of royalty or rates revenue from new or existing Renewable Energy Projects to help improve services not related to road
- d) Equitable representation from each Municipality
- e) Consideration of a share of income from tourist attractions

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Rural and regional Councils often work with a lower rate base than many urban councils yet have the same or greater infrastructure maintenance and renewal responsibilities. Other challenges specific to rural and regional areas include attracting and retaining skilled specialist staff, increasingly limited contractor availability and increased costs for materials.

Council believes that change is required to enable delivery of exciting large-scale projects including innovative streetscapes in Stanley, revitalisation of the Smithton CBD and to provide the destination experiences that will support a thriving tourism economy and encourage the next generation to stay.

The Local Government Board will hand in its final report at the end of October.

Local Government Review Website: <https://www.futurelocal.tas.gov.au/>

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