

George Town Council
2023 01 24 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING ATTACHMENTS
Agenda

Perhaps, reform in statutory requirements could be considered to introduce stepped approval processes from para-professionals?

Conclusion

The objective of the Review is to create a more robust and capable system of local government, for the benefit of all Tasmanians.

The submission by the City of Launceston misses the mark. Its arguments for increasing its geographical reach are not robust, and there does not appear sufficient effort put into exploring alternate approaches to reducing its apparent cost burden.

George Town Council implores the Board to consider potential social injustices caused to smaller communities should proposals from larger councils to absorb regional infrastructure be entertained.

George Town Council commends the Board on its research undertaken to date and encourages it to also consider lessons learned from Queensland (*de Souza, S. V., Dollery, B. E., & Kortt, M. A. (2015). De-amalgamation in action: the Queensland experience. Public Management Review, 17(10), 1403-1424.*) and NSW (*smh.com.au; NSW mega Council bleeding red ink, give communities a say on breaking up mergers*).

George Town Council agrees with the findings to date that principal reasoning for reform being financial is likely for failure.

George Town Council is of the view that the role of local government in local communities can be increased significantly to include service provision for improved health, education, employment and social outcomes and agrees:

'the roles and services provided by local government might be changing but providing local, democratic representation remains an enduring and increasingly important function, especially in regional communities'

(National and International Trends in Local Government – Future of Local Government Review Background Research Paper No. 2 April 2022, p.4).