

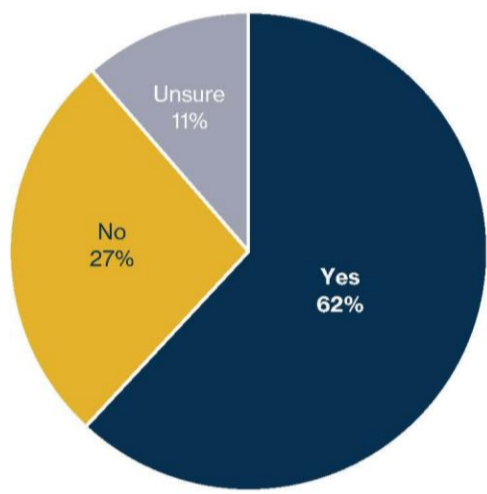
## We Heard You Say 'No' to Amalgamations

In response to the Tasmanian State Government's current Local Government Reform Review, Northern Midlands Council engaged EMRS to conduct a survey of our residents to gauge their opinion on local government reform.

The research was conducted between 17 and 29 July through face-to-face interviews in Longford, Perth, Evandale, and Campbell Town and via telephone surveys with a total of 449 responses received.

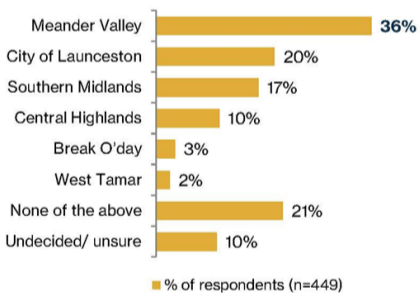
Council has now received the final report which 62% of residents surveyed said that Northern Midlands Council should not consider amalgamating with other councils.

**Chart 6 – Agreement with the Council to Not Amalgamate**  
(Base: all respondents, n=449)



You also told us that Meander Valley is your preferred local government authority if amalgamations were required (36%).

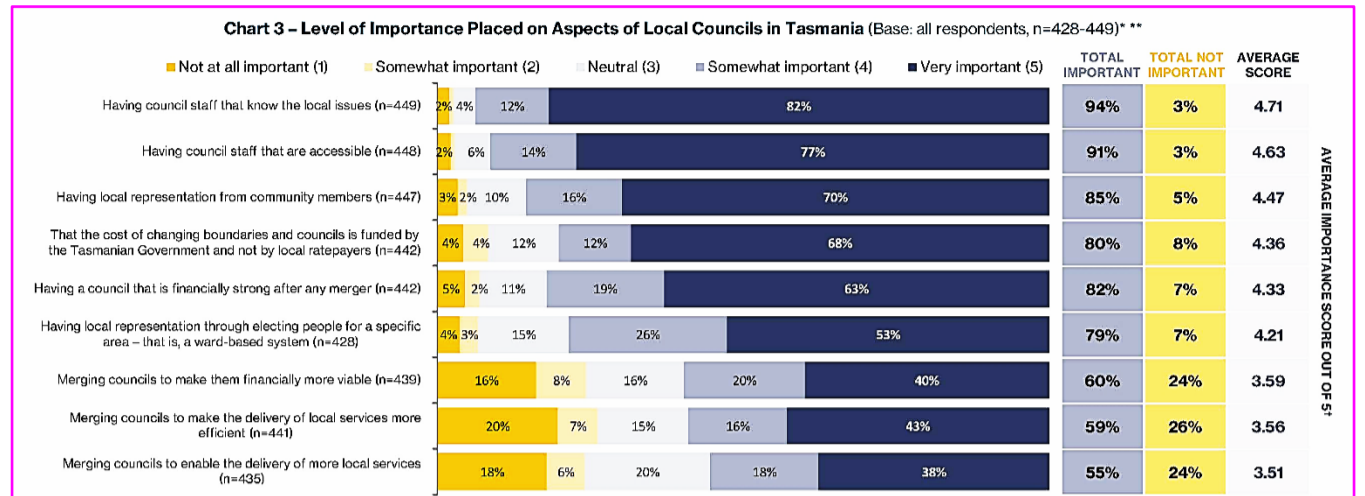
**Chart 5 – Which Councils Northern Midlands Council Should Consider for Amalgamation**  
(Base: all respondents, n=449)\*



The respondents were significantly more likely to nominate "Meander Valley" as the adjoining LGA that Northern Midlands should consider for amalgamation if they had the choice (36%).

When asked to rate the importance of 9 statements about aspects of local councils in Tasmania, you told us what is important to you (in order of importance):

1. Having council staff that know the local issues.
2. Having council staff that are accessible.
3. Having local representation from community members.
4. That the cost of changing boundaries and councils is funded by the Tasmanian Government and not by local ratepayers.
5. Having a council that is financially strong after any merger.
6. Having local representation through electing people for a specific area – that is, a ward-based system.
7. Merging councils to make them financially more viable.
8. Merging councils to make the delivery of local services more efficient.
9. Merging councils to enable the delivery of more local services.



At a Special Council Meeting held on 31 July 2023 Council endorsed a submission to the Board appointed to conduct the Future of Local Government Review is summarised below.

- We are capable of providing for community needs and we have worked hard to establish and implement Council's Strategic Plan and associated strategies. Council is most appreciated for its representation and accessibility, trust and public engagement
- Our Council is impacted by all of the scenarios presented in the Central and Midlands Community Catchment Information Pack and one of the scenarios in the Tamar Valley Community Catchment Information Pack
- We do not support forced or voluntary amalgamation of NMC and a majority of residents agree with us
- We reject any change to our existing boundaries
- We support targeted local government reform, including voluntary amalgamations for council's who mutually agree to the amalgamation occurring
- We are very concerned about the likely negative impact any changes to municipal boundaries would have on smaller, more rural communities located within the municipality if forced boundary adjustments are made
- The Review does not take into account the impact on the historic and cultural connections between NMC's townships, villages and rural communities which are integral to the current social capital and sense of belonging
- No data was provided as to how economies of scale would deliver costs savings to ensure ratepayers do not bear any future financial burden arising from any proposed reforms

The full submission can be found on Councils website <https://northernmidlands.tas.gov.au/council/your-council/about-us>

To supplement the written submission, Council presented at a Public Hearing held in Campbell Town on 10 August 2023.

Northern Midlands elected members and the executive team are of the view that the future of the NMC is prosperous, sustainable and well placed to provide for, and to meet the needs of the community now and into the future. There are few benefits identified through proposed amalgamations.

NMC opposes all scenarios proposed by the Board in the Information Packs. It does not support any forced amalgamation or boundary adjustments throughout the Review process. NMC does not support any voluntary merger with other council(s), wishing to protect its boundaries and for the boundaries to remain as they presently are.

**Mary Knowles OAM**  
Mayor

**Northern Midlands Council:**

- Is focused on future community needs
- Supported by fair funding models that smooth financial impacts for communities
- Preserving & enhancing local voice
- Retaining jobs & service presence locally
- Enjoys a balanced mix of industrial, business, agricultural, community, environmental and residential zones

**Northern Midlands Community Expo**

The countdown has commenced  
Only 9 days to go!

**Saturday 9 September 2023**  
Longford Sports Centre Stadium  
10 Burghley Street  
10am to 4pm