



Future of Local Government Review Final Report Released

The Final Report about the Future of Local Government Review has now been released with the local Government Review Board (the Board) making 37 recommendations on how our current system needs to change so councils can meet the challenges and opportunities our communities will face in the next 20-30 years.

because of its similar geography, demographics and community of interest, and a history of shared service arrangements".

In July 2023 both the Premier Jeremy Rockliff and Minister for Local Government, Nic Street, clarified the State Government's position, that there would be no forced amalgamations, however, the Board believes that to deliver on these outcomes, two main types of reform are needed:

- A renewed Strategic Planning and Reporting Framework,
- A statutory requirement for councils to consult with local communities to identify wellbeing priorities, objectives, and outcomes.
- Rating and revenue changes within the context of a framework
- Elected member capability and conduct framework including ongoing professional development.

Board Recommended Structural Reforms - *councils need both greater scale and capability achieved through boundary consolidation, as well as greater capacity to work together and share resources.*

Voluntary amalgamations are recommended, reducing the 29 councils to 15 acknowledging any changes would need to undergo a more detailed assessment and community vote before being implemented.

The Board also is recommending council designed, but mandated, participation in shared services arrangements, such as key technical professions where capability gaps are being felt the most.

Board Recommended Specific Reforms - *improvements are needed to how councils are governed, funded, and deliver services. Councils need to operate within systems and frameworks that support them to be as efficient, effective, and accountable to their communities as possible.*

Some of the recommendations included in the "Specific Reforms" are changes to the Local Government Act 1993 including:



The Minister is now carrying out a final round of consultation with councils and the community until 29 February 2024 and there are several ways you can have your say.

- By mail to Local Government Reform, GPO Box 123, Hobart, Australia 7001
- By email to lg.consultation@dpac.tas.gov.au
- Or online.

Given the significance of the Report, Council will now take time to consider the 37 recommendations in full, with a final submission to be made in February 2024.

A copy of the Final Report can be found on the Future of Local Government Review website: <https://engage.futurelocal.tas.gov.au/>

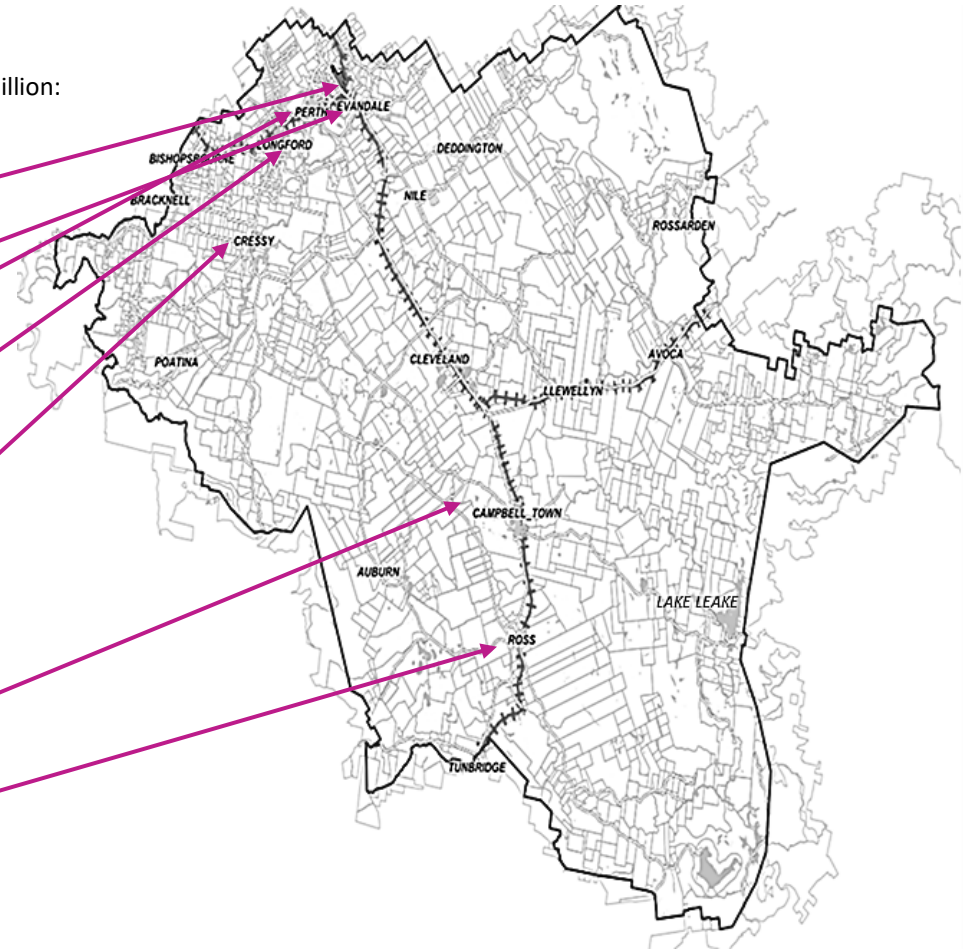
Mary Knowles OAM
Mayor

Northern Midlands Council, Footpath Program

In 2022/2023, Northern Midlands constructed/reconstructed 7026m² of footpaths at a cost of \$1.195 million: 4,952m² new concrete; 1,263m² new asphalt; 650m² replaced concrete; and 161m² replaced asphalt.

The 2023/2024 budget allocation is \$926,000 which is broken up as follows:

Evandale	
Barclay St: From no 46 towards White Hills Road	\$50,000
Western Junction	
Hobart Road: Off road shared path from Breadalbane in a northerly direction	\$250,000
Perth	
Edward Street: Between Napoleon Street and Cromwell Street	\$68,000
Frederick Street: Between Scone Street and Clarence Street	\$54,000
Little Mulgrave Street: From Main Street to Unit development	\$40,000
Longford	
Goderich Street: Between William Street and Archer Street	\$22,000
Pakenham Street: Between Hobhouse Street and Bulwer Street	\$60,000
Latour Street: From Lyttleton Street to Archer Street	\$30,000
Latour Street: From Archer Street to Smith Street	\$42,000
Cressy	
Main Street: Between Saundridge Road and Church Street	\$75,000
Church Street: From Charles Street to Murfet Street	\$25,000
Campbell Town	
Bridge Street: From High Street to Pedder Street	\$15,000
Ross	
Railway footpath crossing High Street	\$60,000
All Areas	
Replacement of existing cracked asphalt footpath with concrete in areas of most need	\$135,000



Your Bushfire Plan can help you make important decisions before you are threatened by a bushfire and, save your life and the lives of those you love and care for. **Don't leave it too late. Prepare now!** Download your resources from: <https://www.fire.tas.gov.au/>



Congratulations to **Longford Blooms** for another success weekend of wonderful open gardens and stalls. Also, a special acknowledgement also goes to Paula Gordon-Smith who was a finalist at the VNT's (Visit Northern Tasmania) Champion of Tourism Awards recently. Congratulations Paula.



Verandah Music Festival
25-23
November

Join in with the fun and funky beats performed live on gorgeous verandahs throughout the picturesque historic village of Evandale. For the festival line up and other details, go to the website: www.verandahmusicfestival.com

Have you got your ticket yet?



2023 Shannons Classic Car Charity Run
Open to all cars from veteran to modern day, car club and non-car club enthusiasts. Non-perishable food donations in lieu of toys please. See you there on 3 December, from 10.30am to 2.30pm at the Campbell Town Memorial Grounds.