

Northern Midlands Council Will Fight Merger Push

Northern Midlands Council has voted to fight any changes to its present boundaries or mergers with neighbouring councils.

Mayor Mary Knowles said it is Council's view Northern Midlands residents would be severely disadvantaged under all Community Catchment scenarios presented in the Future of Local Government Review.

- Under all scenarios proposed in the Review, Northern Midlands municipality would cease to exist in its current form.
- The Northern Midlands would lose its identity forever.
- Local services tailored to the community are at risk in bigger councils.
- Local representation would be weakened or lost entirely due to an increase in municipality size.
- Council is in a strong financial position and maintains its infrastructure to a high standard.
- No cost savings are expected from amalgamation.
- It has been acknowledged Council amalgamations fail to yield financial benefits.
- Rates for all residents would also likely rise following amalgamation.

An example: Residential Rates for property with Government valuation (Capital Value) of \$600,000.

2023/2024 Residential Rates	Launceston City	Northern Midlands	Variance
Assessed Annual Value (AAV)	19,748	19,748	
General Rate	1,218.87	1,252.02	293.65
General Rate Fixed Charge	326.80		
Fire Permanent Brigade	232.93		167.76
Fire Volunteer Brigade		65.17	
MGB Service	225.50	175.00	50.50
Total	2,004.10	1,492.19	511.91

Northern Midlands Council strongly encourages all residents to have a say on our future and provide your Councillors and the State Government with a clear view of your preference for the future of the Northern Midlands municipality.

The Future of Local Government Review Board have asked members of the community to provide comment on the proposed local government boundary scenarios detailed in the Community Catchment Information Packs:

Online surveys close midnight on Thursday 6 July: <https://engage.futurelocal.tas.gov.au/community-surveys>

Written submissions close 2 August: <https://engage.futurelocal.tas.gov.au/make-submission>

Make your voice heard!

Northern Midlands Council will have an online survey ready shortly. Northern Midlands Council has engaged the Tasmanian research firm Enterprise Marketing and Research Services (EMRS) to gather feedback on how people feel about the proposed changes to local councils in Tasmania.

The EMRS survey process will commence in the coming week, via telephone and face to face, EMRS will call you from telephone number **(03) 6211 1222**. Council's online survey will also be available to complete. We will let you know about it on Facebook and our website.

You can also contact

Local State MPs

- The Hon. Nic Street, Minister for Local Government | nic.street@parliament.tas.gov.au
- The Hon Guy Barnett, Liberal Member for Lyons | guy.barnett@parliament.tas.gov.au
- The Hon Mark Shelton, Liberal Member for Lyons | mark.shelton@parliament.tas.gov.au
- Mr J E Tucker, Independent Member for Lyons | john.tucker@parliament.tas.gov.au
- The Hon. Jane Howlett, Liberal Member for Prosser | jane.howlett@parliament.tas.gov.au
- The Hon Rebecca White, Labor Member for Lyons and Leader of the Opposition | rebecca.white@parliament.tas.gov.au
- Luke Edmunds, Labor, Shadow Minister for Local Government | luke.edmunds@parliament.tas.gov.au
- Ms Jen Butler MP, Labor Member for Lyons | jen.butler@parliament.tas.gov.au
- The Hon. Tania Rattray, Independent Member for McIntyre | tania.rattray@parliament.tas.gov.au
- The Hon. Rosemary Armitage, Independent Member for Launceston | rosemary.armitage@parliament.tas.gov.au

Local Government Board

Sue Smith AM, Chair of the Local Government Board | lgboard@dpac.tas.gov.au

Reminder: Future of Local Government Review: Make your voice heard. Contact your local politician and Councillors.