



Confirmed Minutes Special Council Meeting 1 August 2023



Table of Contents

Item	Page
1 Acknowledgment of Country	1
2 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest	1
3 Conflict of Interest	1
4 Governance	2
4.1 Future of Local Government Review Submission.....	2

Flinders Council Special Meeting – Confirmed Minutes

Tuesday 1 August 2023

Venue	Furneaux Arts and Entertainment Centre, Whitemark
Commencing	9.30 am
Attendees – Councillors	Mayor Rachel Summers Deputy Mayor Vanessa Grace Aaron Burke Carol Cox Peter Rhodes
Apologies	Ken Stockton Garry Blenkhorn
Attendees – Staff	Warren Groves General Manager (9.30am – 9.43am) Kyra Newman Executive Assistant (minute taker) (9.30am – 9.43am)

1 ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

The Mayor began by acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the land on which we met today, the palawa people of the trawulwai Nation. She recognised their continuing connection to the land, waters and culture of this island, and paid respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

2 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Nil

3 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nil

4 GOVERNANCE

4.1 FUTURE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW SUBMISSION

Action	Decision
Proponent	Council Officer
Officer	Warren Groves General Manager
File Reference	COU/0401
Annexures	4.1.1 Future of Local Government Review Submission

INTRODUCTION

The Tasmanian Government commissioned the "Future of Local Government Review" with the aim of ensuring the resilience, competence, and preparedness of our local government system for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Under Chair, Sue Smith AM, the Board commenced this review in January 2022, and after 18 months, we are now approaching its conclusion.

Upon the release of the Interim report for Stage 2, councils were requested to submit their responses within a period of 9 weeks. It is important to note that the accompanying information pack was released six weeks later, resulting in an extension to the submission deadline. This pack presented three potential scenarios, two of which involved Flinders Council retaining its independence, while the third scenario proposed an amalgamation with Dorset and Break O'Day Councils.

Throughout the process, Councillors engaged in distribution of information through various media channels including social media, local news, the Council website and other in person activities to gather community sentiment.

These engagement initiatives included:

1. Conducting four Community Information Sessions;
2. Undertaking a Community Survey;
3. Engaging with the community at the Lions Market;
4. Organising two sessions to assist community members in contributing their submissions; and
5. Engaging in approximately 200 conversations with community members.

The feedback received from our community demonstrated a clear consensus, expressing a strong appreciation for Flinders Council in its current form. The community voiced opposition to amalgamation, whether by force or other means, citing concerns about the potential loss of representation and, consequently, their ability to have a say in local matters. Furthermore, the lack of comprehensive information upon which community-altering decisions are being based is a matter of concern for our residents, who are also apprehensive about the potential impact on their lives.

To construct our submission, we carefully considered the feedback gathered from our community, our Council, neighbouring councils, and the consultations conducted with the Local Government Board and coordinated by the Local Government Association of Tasmania.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

Nil

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DISCUSSION

15 February 2023 Council Workshop

22 February 2023	Council Workshop
26 April 2023	Council Workshop
24 May 2023	Council Workshop
31 May 2023	Council Workshop
12 July 2023	Council Workshop
26 July 2023	Council Workshop

OFFICER'S REPORT

Extensive discussions have been held with elected members, staff, other impacted Councils as well as extending invitations to the Community to join in the discussions. There were no significant benefits identified but rather a strong belief that it would be detrimental to the sustainability and growth of the island.

STATUTORY REQUIREMENT

Local Government Act 1993

POLICY/STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

1. Liveability - To protect and build upon our islands' way of life
2. Accessibility and Infrastructure - Quality Infrastructure and services for community benefit
3. Economy and Business - An Environment where a variety of businesses can thrive and integrate
4. Good Governance - Effective, efficient and transparent management and operations

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RISK/LIABILITY

Nil

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. That Council suspends the operation of Regulation 22 of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015, in accordance with Regulation 22 (9); and
2. That Councillors discuss and finalise the preparation of the Flinders Council Future of Local Government Review Submission.

DECISION

237.08.2023 Moved: D/Mayor Vanessa Grace Seconded: Cr Peter Rhodes

1. That Council suspends the operation of Regulation 22 of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015, in accordance with Regulation 22 (9); and
2. That Councillors discuss and finalise the preparation of the Flinders Council Future of Local Government Review Submission.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0)

For: Mayor Rachel Summers, Deputy Mayor Vanessa Grace, Councillor Aaron Burke, Councillor Carol Cox and Councillor Peter Rhodes.

AMENDMENT

238.08.2023 Moved: D/Mayor Vanessa Grace Seconded: Cr Aaron Burke
That this submission as presented in annexure 4.1.1 is approved without amendment to be submitted to the Local Government Board for the Future of Local Government Review.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0)

For: Mayor Rachel Summers, Deputy Mayor Vanessa Grace, Councillor Aaron Burke, Councillor Carol Cox and Councillor Peter Rhodes.

SUBSTANTIVE MOTION (237.08.2023)

That this submission as presented in annexure 4.1.1 is approved without amendment to be submitted to the Local Government Board for the Future of Local Government Review.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (5-0)

For: Mayor Rachel Summers, Deputy Mayor Vanessa Grace, Councillor Aaron Burke, Councillor Carol Cox and Councillor Peter Rhodes.

Councillors expressed that they were proud of the work that has been put into the Future of Local Government Review Submission and thanked all those who contributed to the production of this document.

At 9.43am Mayor Rachel Summers announced that the meeting was closed.

MEETING CLOSED 9.43AM
