

Media Release

Amalgamations a must

According to Alderman Marti Zucco “Amalgamation of Councils is a matter whose time has come, He said as long as it is managed in the appropriate manner, with serious considerations of all the issues and the level of consultation is based on what is best rather than political grandeur, then we need to look at what benefits the big picture will bring to all of us”

Alderman Zucco said “The increased sophistication in the delivery of services and the provision of amenities has outstripped the colonial boundaries of our current local government jurisdictions”

He also said “The argument presented by my fellow alderman, Cocker, is ridiculous and reflects a report from a professor reviewing local government structures on the mainland, which has little relevance to our local conditions”

He pointed out that “In fact the argument is really a repeat of the tired arguments relating to forestry, which has little relevance to the Hobart municipality”

We need to look at amalgamations with an open mind.

Alderman Zucco further added that “The greater Hobart area comprises three distinct geographic areas – north, south and east. A proposal for amalgamations should reflect this geographic reality, and would provide a visionary approach to this matter”

Marti Zucco said he welcomed the options paper by the STCA “The authority was established by the Councils and therefore its deliberations hold more weight with the Councils,

“A proposal based on these geographic parameters would provide an equivalent population rate base for the three regions of Hobart and would at the same time enable a degree of competitive tension between the three, which can only be good for the rate payers of greater Hobart” Marti Zucco also said.

He also added that “Such a proposal would not adversely affect democratic traditions, such as was put forward by Alderman Cocker”

In conclusion Alderman Zucco said “Ultimately we need to look at the big picture and how we can improve the economic situation that will benefit the regions and the ratepayers, rather than what may be an idealistic view point that fails to grasp the most important issue concerning Tasmanians at this point in time, the ever increasing charges and the household costs of living”

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21st September 2011