



Meander Valley Council  
Working Together

# AGENDA

## SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

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**Tuesday 25 July 2023**

**Time** 3.00pm

**Location** Council Chambers  
26 Lyall Street  
Westbury, Tasmania

**Phone** (03) 6393 5300

## Our Values

Our seven values help guide our decisions and underpin all we do.

Respect, listen and care for one another

Be trustworthy, honest and tolerant

Be positive and receptive to new ideas

Be innovative, creative and learn

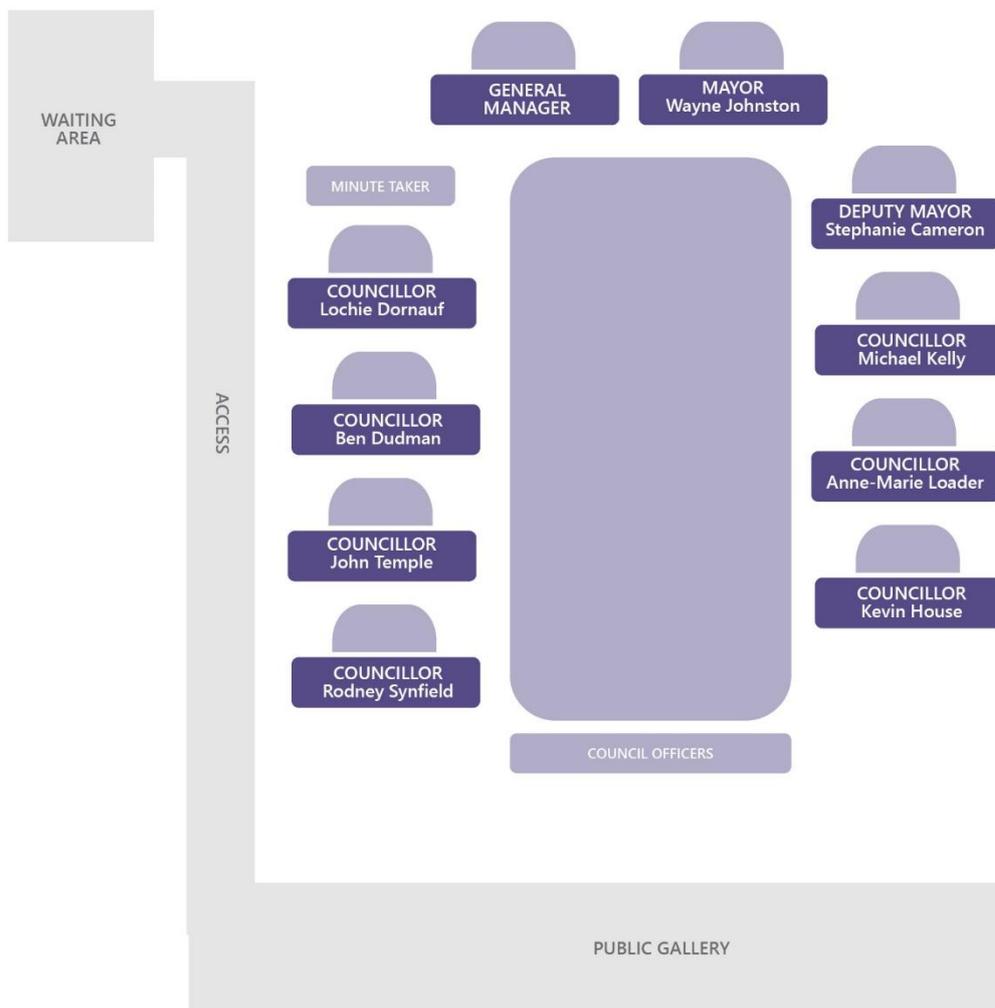
Take a fair, balanced and long term approach

Use sound business practices

Work together

## Council Chambers

Seating Plan



## Going to a Council Meeting

Members of the community are encouraged to engage with Council's monthly meetings. You can submit questions online or attend in person.

Our website offers handy fact sheets with information about what to expect at a Council Meeting, including how to participate in Public Question Time.

After the meeting, you'll find minutes and an audio recording online.

Hard copies of agendas and minutes are also available to view at the Council offices.

### Learn more

**Click here** to find fact sheets about attending a Council meeting, or to submit a question online.

A copy of the latest agenda and minutes are available to view at the Council offices in Westbury. **Click here** to view agendas and minutes online, or listen to audio of our meetings.

You can also contact the Office of the General Manager by phone on (03) 6393 5317, or email [ogm@mvc.tas.gov.au](mailto:ogm@mvc.tas.gov.au) to submit a question or learn more about opportunities to speak at a Council Meeting.

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## Public Access to Chambers

Where there is a need to manage demand, seating will be prioritised as follows:

**For planning decisions:** applicants and representors have first priority. A representor is a community member who writes to Council to object to or support a planning application (statutory timeframes apply for becoming a representor during the planning process).

**For all decisions:** Members of the media are welcome to take up any seats not in use by the public, or email [ogm@mvc.tas.gov.au](mailto:ogm@mvc.tas.gov.au) to request specific information about a Council decision. Media requests received by email before close of business (or the end of the meeting) will receive a same-day response.

Attendees are requested to consider the health and wellbeing of others in attendance.

If you are symptomatic or in an infectious state then you are requested to stay away or follow good-practices to minimise risk to others. This includes measures such as social distancing, wearing of face-masks and the use of hand sanitisers.

## Conduct at Council Meetings

Visitors are reminded that Council Meetings are a place of work for staff and Councillors.

Council is committed to meeting its responsibilities as an employer and as host of this important public forum, by ensuring that all present meet expectations of mutually respectful and orderly conduct.

It is a condition of entry to the Council Chambers that you cooperate with any directions or requests from the Chairperson or Council officers.

The Chairperson is responsible for maintaining order at Council Meetings. The General Manager is responsible for health, wellbeing and safety of all present. The Chairperson or General Manager may require a person to leave Council premises following any behaviour that falls short of these expectations. It is an offence to hinder or disrupt a Council Meeting.

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## Access & Inclusion

Council supports and accommodates inclusion for all who seek participation in Council Meetings, as far as is practicable.

Any person with a disability or other specific needs is encouraged to contact Council before the meeting on (03) 6393 5300 or via email to [ogm@mvc.tas.gov.au](mailto:ogm@mvc.tas.gov.au) to discuss how we can best assist you with access.

## Certificate of Qualified Advice

A General Manager must ensure any advice, information or recommendation is given to Council by a person with the necessary qualifications or experience: section 65, *Local Government Act 1993*.

Council must not decide on any matter without receiving qualified advice, or a certification from the General Manager.

Accordingly, I certify that, where required:

- (i) the advice of a qualified person was obtained in preparation of this Agenda; and
- (ii) this advice was taken into account in providing general advice to Meander Valley Council;  
and
- (iii) A copy of any such advice (or a written transcript or summary of oral advice) is included with the agenda item.



Jonathan Harmey  
**ACTING GENERAL MANAGER**

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## Meeting Open - Attendance & Apologies

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### Acknowledgment of Country

Council acknowledges the Pallitore and Panninher past peoples and the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we gather for the Council Meeting, with respects paid to elders past and present and extended to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples present.

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### Confirmation of Minutes

**Motion** Receive and confirm minutes of the last Ordinary Council Meeting held 11 July 2023.

**Vote** Simple majority

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### Declarations of Interest

Nil received prior to agenda publication.

## Community Representations

Nil requests received prior to agenda publication.

Community representations are an opportunity for community members or groups to request up to three minutes to address Council on a topic of particular interest.

Requests received at least fourteen days prior to a Council Meeting will be considered by the Chairperson. For further information, contact the Office of the General Manager on (03) 6393 5317 or email [ogm@mvc.tas.gov.au](mailto:ogm@mvc.tas.gov.au).

## Public Question Time

Members of the public may ask questions in person or using our online form.

Thirty minutes is set aside for members of the public to ask questions provided with or without notice. Council will accept up to two questions “with notice” and two questions “without notice” per person, per meeting.

**Click here** to submit an online question.

Refer to pages 3 and 4 of this agenda for more information about attending a Council Meeting.

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### **This Month’s Public Questions With Notice**

Nil received prior to agenda publication.

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### **This Month’s Public Questions Without Notice**

Nil received prior to agenda publication.

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## **Councillor Question Time**

### **This Month's Councillor Questions With Notice**

Nil received prior to agenda publication.

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### **This Month's Councillor Questions Without Notice**

Nil received prior to agenda publication.

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## Governance

### Future of Local Government Review - Meander Valley Council Submission

**Report Author** Jonathan Harmey  
Acting General Manager

**Decision Sought** Council establish a position on the State Government's Future of Local Government Review and agree to provide the position as a submission to the State Government's Local Government Board.

**Vote** Simple majority

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#### Recommendation to Council

That Council approves the following position on the State Government's Future of Local Government Review and provides the position as a submission to the State Government's Local Government Board:

1. Meander Valley Council works hard to achieve a sustainable business model and responsible decision making that ensures appropriate services are available in our community now and for future generations.
2. We are calling on the State Government to complete their current Local Government reform agenda with no forced alterations to Tasmanian council boundary areas unless a Council agrees to accept changes to their current boundary areas.
3. The Meander Valley community does not support forced amalgamation of the current council areas.
4. We have received insufficient evidence to justify the significant changes to the current council boundaries proposed by the State Government's Local Government Board.
5. The Meander Valley community is concerned about the likely negative economic impact on smaller townships if forced amalgamations of Tasmanian councils is undertaken by the State Government.

6. We request information to be provided that clearly demonstrates how economies of scale will deliver real cost savings to the Meander Valley Council property owners as a result of amalgamation of Tasmanian councils by the State Government.
  7. We support greater use of agreed key performance indicators to be used as a guide of performance for Tasmanian councils, which will demonstrate whether, like Meander Valley, councils are delivering sustainable services to their community.
  8. We support councils that wish to progress voluntary amalgamations to do so with the support of their communities and the State Government. Our community does not support voluntary amalgamation of the Meander Valley Council area with any other Tasmanian councils.
  9. We support the investigation of greater use of shared services for Tasmanian councils, including investigation of future legislated shared services, for services that Tasmanian councils currently deliver and can be better delivered on a regional or statewide basis. This would be with the support and approval of Tasmanian councils. Examples of potential shared services include Information Technology, procurement tendering and assessment, and policy development.
  10. We do not support any of the four Tamar Valley proposed amalgamation scenarios.
  11. We do not support any of the four Central & Midlands proposed amalgamation scenarios.
  12. We do not support the Meander Valley community being required to pay for any new council areas created by the State Government.
  13. We will continue to work with all other Tasmanian councils to improve the local government sector.
  14. We believe that Local Government is well placed to continue our active role in planning for our community.
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## Report

In 2021 the Tasmanian State Government announced a Local Government Board Review with the objective of creating a more robust and capable system of local government that is ready for the challenges and opportunities of the future, and to make recommendations of the future role, functions and design of Local Government.

Under the Terms of Reference for the Review, the Local Government Board has been considering:

1. the future roles and functions that should be delivered by Local Government in Tasmania;
2. the organisational features and capabilities necessary to enable Local Government to effectively and sustainably deliver its future roles and functions;
3. the optimal future design for the Tasmanian Local Government sector to support the delivery of Local Government's proposed roles, functions, features and capabilities, individually and collectively, across representative and administrative roles and functions;
4. a practical transition plan for implementing the future design of local government in Tasmania, if required; and
5. any other matters the Local Government Board considers relevant to the above.

On 29 May 2023 the Local Government Board released a series of Information Packs identifying nine new proposed Community Catchments for Tasmania, as outlined in the Stage 2 Interim Report. The Information Packs outline eight different scenarios for new Local Government boundaries relevant to the Meander Valley Council area. The current Meander Valley Council municipal area would be discontinued should the proposed scenarios be supported. There are four scenarios identified for the Tamar Valley Catchment and four scenarios for the Central & Midlands Catchment.

The Local Government Board is inviting submissions on the Stage 2 Interim Report and Community Catchment Information Packs until 2 August 2023. Community members have been encouraged to provide the State Government with their own submission via email: [Submissions.LGBoard@dpac.tas.gov.au](mailto:Submissions.LGBoard@dpac.tas.gov.au), in writing: "Future of Local Government Review, GPO Box 123, HOBART, TASMANIA 7001" or online: <https://engage.futurelocal.tas.gov.au/make-submission>

Meander Valley Council have undertaken engagement with relevant stakeholders during June and July 2023. This was seen as an important process to receive feedback from our community about the issues that are important to them in the State Government's Local Government Review. We have received strengths and weaknesses identified by the community on the proposed reforms. We have received an overwhelming message of support from our community, they value the Meander Valley Council as it currently is and are opposed to forced amalgamation of our current boundaries. The key issues that

have been identified are the importance of local representation in decision making, concern for cost impacts to property owners, uncertainty around the way services would be provided by Local Government under any reforms.

Table 1 and Table 2 are sourced from the online survey Council undertook on the State Government's reform process.

Question: Do you support forced amalgamation of Councils by the Tasmanian State Government?

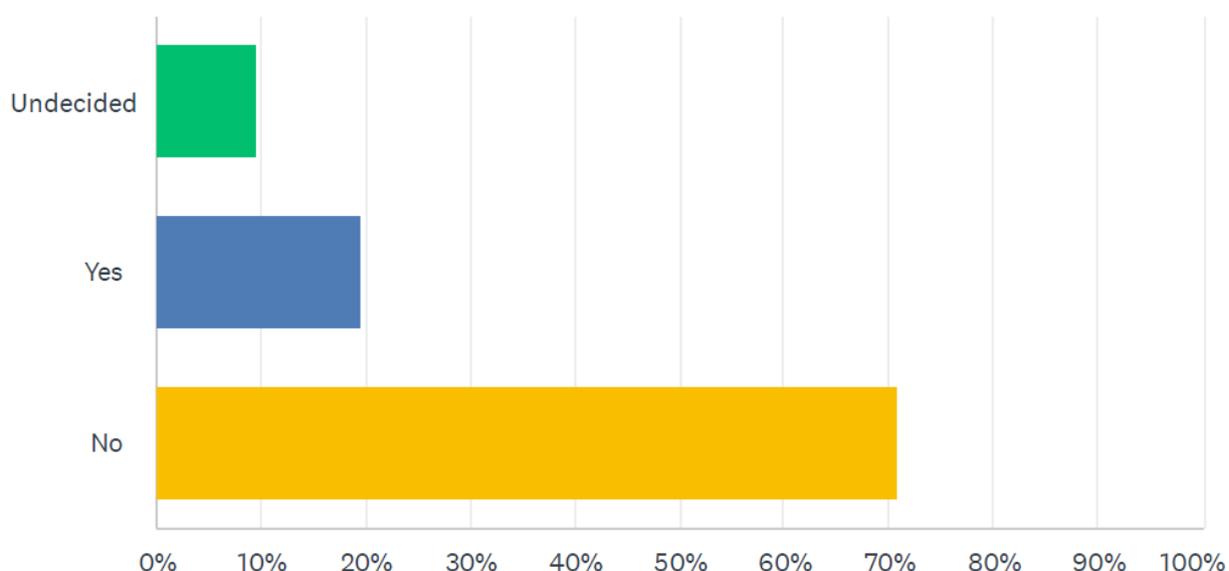


Table 1: Results of 333 respondents [No: 70.87%, Yes: 19.52%, Undecided: 9.61%]

Question: Do you support Council's choosing to amalgamate voluntarily?

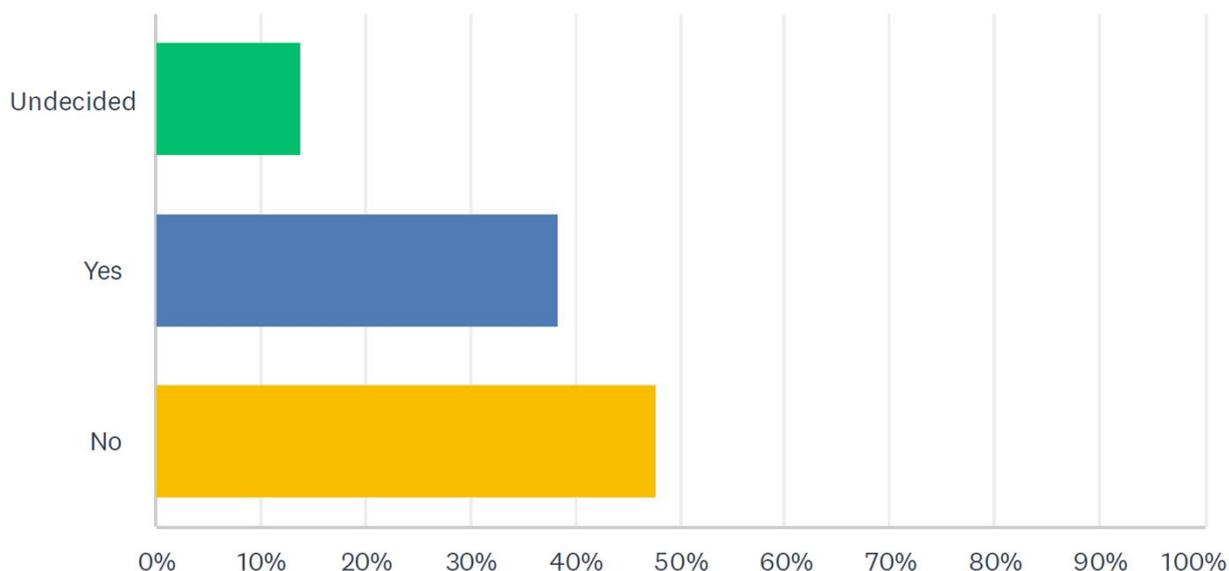


Table 2: Results of 333 respondents [No: 47.75%, Yes: 38.44%, Undecided: 13.81%]

Council discussed the State Government's Future of Local Government Review at Council Workshops on 2 May 2023, 20 June 2023, 27 June 2023 and 18 July 2023.

**Attachments** Nil

**Strategy** Supports the objectives of Council's strategic future direction:  
1: a sustainable natural and built environment  
2: a thriving local economy  
3: vibrant and engaged communities  
4: a healthy and safe community  
5: innovative leadership and community governance  
6: planned infrastructure services.

See Meander Valley Community Strategic Plan 2014-24. [Click here](#) or visit [www.meander.tas.gov.au/plans-and-strategies](http://www.meander.tas.gov.au/plans-and-strategies) to view.

**Policy** Not applicable

**Legislation** *Local Government Act 1993*

**Consultation** Engagement with the Meander Valley community has assisted in forming Council's position regarding the Local Government Board's review into the future of Local Government in Tasmania.

Consultation methods used to form the position included:

- Councillor discussions with community members
- Internal councilor and employee meetings
- All employees meeting
- Survey of employees (48 respondents)
- Online community survey (334 respondents)
- Two Facebook posts (one a purchased advertisement)
- Media release to Gazette and commercial media
- Responses to media enquiries
- Phone survey of 360 respondents (in progress)
- Prospect Vale community feedback session (35 attended)
- Deloraine community feedback session (87 attended)

Promotion for public community feedback sessions included:

- Information provided to the Meander Valley Gazette
- Online survey via Council's website
- Survey and the community feedback sessions promoted on Facebook
- Media statement and subsequent enquiries about community feedback sessions
- Advertising with Meander Valley FM
- Advertising with commercial radio
- Advertising printed quarter page advert in Saturday's Examiner
- Display in Council's customer service office
- Political representatives invited
- Community noticeboards information on display
- Direct email campaign (277 subscribers)

**Budget & Finance** Council approved a budget of \$20,000 in the 2023-24 Budget Estimates for Local Government reform consultation.

**Risk Management** Consultation undertaken with Meander Valley Council stakeholders identified that there are risks associated with forced alterations to Tasmanian council boundary areas, as proposed in the Community Catchment Information Packs.

**Alternative Motions**

1. Council can approve the recommendation with amendments
2. Council can elect not to form a position or provide a submission to the State Government's Local Government Board.

## Motion to Close Meeting

**Motion** Close the meeting to the public for discussion of matters in the list of agenda items below.

Refer to *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015: s15(1)*.

**Vote** Absolute majority

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## Closed Session Agenda

### Confirmation of Closed Minutes

Refer to *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015: s34(2)*.

### Leave of Absence Applications

Refer to *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015: s15(2)(h)*.

### Release of Public Information

Refer to *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015: s15(8)*.

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## Meeting End

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