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## Media Release

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### **Local government association welcomes the Government's commitment to no forced amalgamations**

The Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) welcomes the announcement today by the Minister for Local Government, Nic Street, that the Government will not be forcing any council amalgamations on Tasmanian communities.

To ensure that community voices are heard, the reform process must be collaborative with councils and communities. It must work to understand what councils are delivering well, the challenges they face and importantly, take the time to understand community needs. Forcing amalgamations against local community wishes will not achieve this.

LGAT President and Break O'Day Mayor, Mick Tucker, said that "the commitment by the Minister today to work with interested councils and their communities through the next stages of reform will ensure the process delivers the appropriate change that is in the best interests of individual local areas."

"Local government reform should focus on delivering what communities need in a sustainable way. The best way to do this is to create a more robust and capable system of local government," he said.

"Designing new boundaries and shared services requires time and resources. The transition process must be very carefully managed. The commitment from the Minister today to support this process is very welcomed and responds to a number of concerns our sector has been raising," Mayor Tucker said.

We look forward to supporting Tasmanian councils as they navigate this process and welcome the opportunity to collaborate with the State Government to get this right.

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