



MEDIA RELEASE

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No Increase in Council Numbers

“Mary Massina of Tasmanians for Reform has finally lost the plot. Her conspiracy theory that State and Local Government have joined with the TCCI in a covert operation to increase the number of councils in the state is beyond preposterous,” President of the Local Government Association, Mayor Barry Easter said today.

“It has got to the stage that this spokesperson for seemingly everybody in the state has decided that if people don’t agree with her view of the world then she will simply make up stories that suit her ends.”

“State and Local Government are putting their heads together to develop a foundation that ensures that whatever Local Government exists in the future, whatever form it takes and however many councils there will be, that it will be sustainable and capable of achieving the requirements of the communities it represents.”

“I can assure you now that this process will not result in more councils or more councillors.”

“The problem here is that a body representing broad business interests was invited to participate in the process and Ms Massina wasn’t. Perhaps if there was something constructive coming out of the so-called greatest coalition in the history of time, then the Minister may have considered other participation, but like everybody else, I expect he is sick of the rhetoric as well.”

“If Ms Massina bothered to consider the outcomes being achieved from the funding provided to look at a range of reforms across the Local Government sector, she may be surprised to learn that there have been significant improvements and efficiencies in the areas of addressing components of climate change, systems integration and major reform of the asset management and long term financial planning efforts of councils. Her constant double counting of funding and bad mouthing of everybody that doesn’t agree with her is becoming tiresome.”

“Perhaps if she had some constructive contribution to make on any subject then people may involve her in those matters that are important to the state and everyday Tasmanians rather than the self interests of the group that she has cobbled together.”

“Councillors and aldermen are elected by the people and are accountable to the community - not self appointed individuals that tarnish the truth and fantasise about their own importance.”

The Local Government Association of Tasmania is committed to ensuring that Local Government is sustainable, it meets the needs of and empowers its communities and builds and supports a sense of local identity.

Ends

For media enquiries, please contact LGAT President, Barry Easter, on 0408334936