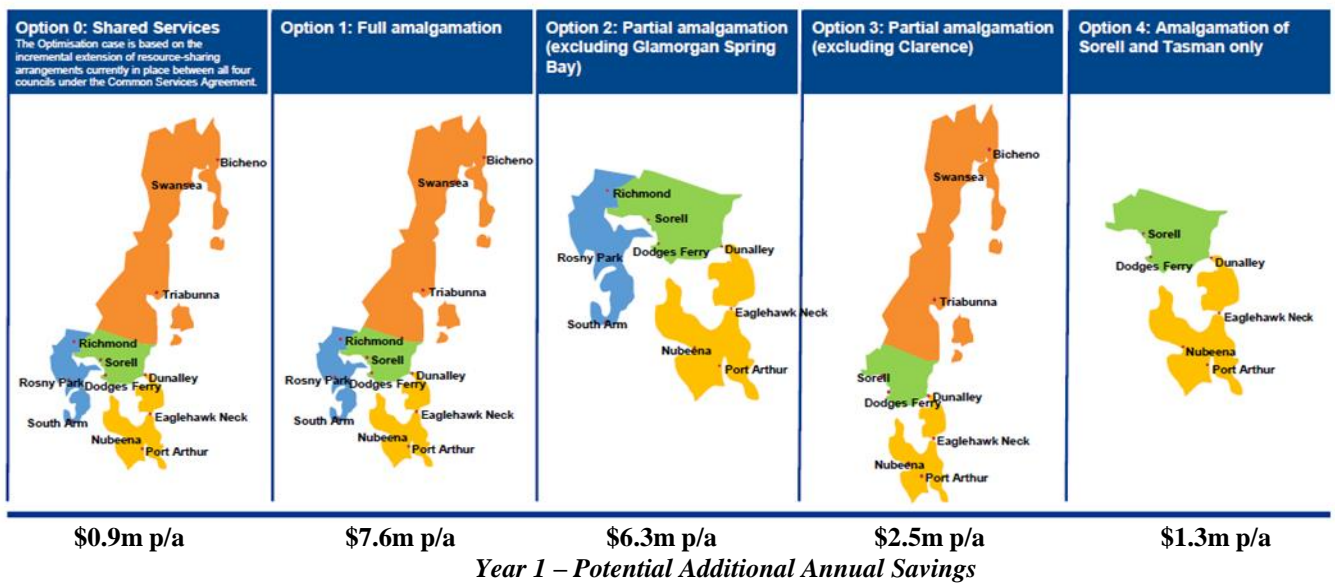




## Council Amalgamations Community Information Sheet on South East Council's Feasibility Study

The South East Councils Feasibility Study carried out by KPMG, was completed in September 2016 and investigated five options for amalgamations:

- **Option 0**
  - Extension of common service arrangements;
- **Option 1**
  - Amalgamation of Clarence City Council, Sorell Council, Tasman Council and Glamorgan Spring Bay Council;
- **Option 2**
  - Amalgamation of Clarence City Council, Sorell Council and Tasman Council;
- **Option 3**
  - Amalgamation of Sorell Council, Glamorgan Spring Bay Council and Tasman Council; and
- **Option 4**
  - Amalgamation of Sorell Council and Tasman Council.



## **Key factors identified**

- There are fundamental differences in the profile, size and scale of the Councils, but these do not preclude amalgamation.
- Diverse communities exist within and across current Council boundaries.
- Forecast population growth is concentrated in Clarence and Sorell, with low growth in Tasman and a decline in Glamorgan Spring Bay.
- The Councils have many similar goals and offer the same core services to their communities, although there is some disparity in the scale and scope of service.
- Each Council is currently living within their means but face long term challenges.

## **Key assumptions in the study include:**

- Conservative assumptions have been used in assessing the options and based on:
  - No changes to services;
  - No changes to rates;
  - Local “shopfronts” retained; and
  - No changes to community facing staff.
- All options provide a positive financial return for the Councils and their communities.
- Local representation can be maintained through wards with fewer elected members. There will be fewer councillors in the south east region under options 1-4. The formation of wards for a transition period is proposed in order to mitigate community concerns about loss of representation under an amalgamated model.
- On balance, ratepayers are no worse off under any option, but the impacts vary.
- There is still work to be done if Councils decide to move ahead with one of the amalgamation options. Achieving the potential financial savings is directly impacted by the effectiveness of any merger implementation plans and strategies between the relevant Councils.

In summary, the study’s conclusions propose that all of the councils are better off in any of the options in which they feature, but there are variations in financial impact.

In all options involving amalgamation, there will be a reduction in the number of elected members, and this is one trade-off for improved financial performance. The creation of electoral districts is a mechanism that can be employed to lessen any real or perceived loss in access to representation.

The full report detailing the five options can be found on Council’s Website [www.gsbc.tas.gov.au](http://www.gsbc.tas.gov.au). Please go to *Your Council and Local Government Reform*.

If you would like a printed copy of the report sent to you, please contact the Council office on (03) 6256 4777 between 8am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.