



GLAMORGAN SPRING BAY
COUNCIL

Special Meeting Minutes

For the Special
Meeting of Council
held at the
Triabunna
Council Offices

9 January, 2018

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Mayor has called a Special Meeting of the Glamorgan Spring Bay Council to be held at the Triabunna Council Offices on Tuesday the 9th January at 5pm.



Dated this Friday 5th January, 2018

Shane Wells
ACTING GENERAL MANAGER

"I certify that with respect to all advice, information and recommendations provided to Council with this agenda:

- 1. The advice, information or recommendation is given by a person who has the qualifications or experience necessary to give such advice, information or recommendation, and**
- 2. Where any advice is given directly to the Council by a person who does not have the required qualifications or experience, that person has obtained and taken into account in that person's general advice the advice from any appropriately qualified or experienced person. "**

Note: Section 65 of The Local Government Act 1993 states:

- (1) A general manager must ensure that any advice, information or recommendation given to the council or a council committee is given by a person who has the qualifications or experience necessary to give such advice, information or recommendation.**
- (2) A council or council committee is not to decide on any matter which requires the advice of a qualified person without considering such advice unless the general manager certifies in writing that such advice was obtained and taken into account in providing general advice to the council or council committee.**



Shane Wells
ACTING GENERAL MANAGER

Table of Contents

1. OPENING	4
1.1 PRESENT AND APOLOGIES	4
1.2 IN ATTENDANCE	4
1.3 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS	4
2. VOLUNTARY COUNCIL AMALGAMATIONS – COMMUNITY CONSULTATION	5
3. CLOSE	12

Live Streaming and Audio/Video Recording of Ordinary Meetings of Council

As determined by Glamorgan Spring Bay Council in April 2017 all Ordinary and Special Meetings of Council are to be audio/visually recorded and streamed live. A link is available on the Glamorgan Spring Bay Council website to the YouTube platform, where the public can view the meeting live and watch recordings of previous Council meetings.

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and Regulation 33, these video/audio files will be retained by Council for at least 6 months and made available for viewing live, as well as online within 5 days of the scheduled meeting. The written minutes of a meeting, once confirmed, prevail over the video/audio recording of the meeting.

1. Opening

The Mayor welcomed Councillors and staff and declared the meeting open at 5.04 pm.

1.1 Present and Apologies

Present: Mayor Michael Kent, Deputy Mayor Cheryl Arnol, Cllr Jenifer Crawford, Cllr Mick Fama, Cllr Richard Parker, Cllr Britt Steiner, Cllr Jenny Woods, Cllr Debbie Wisby.

Apologies:

1.2 In Attendance

Shane Wells (Acting General Manager), Angela Turvey (Executive Officer) and approximately 7 members of the public.

1.3 Declaration of Pecuniary Interests

In accordance with Regulation 8 of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2005, the Mayor requests Elected Members to indicate whether they or a close associate have, or likely to have, a pecuniary interest in any item included in the Agenda.

2. Voluntary Council Amalgamations – Community Consultation

**Please note this agenda item was deferred from the December 12, 2017 Ordinary Meeting of Council (Item 7.3)*

Responsible Officer – General Manager

Background

Clarence, Sorell, Tasman and Glamorgan Spring Bay Councils jointly signed a memorandum of understanding with the State Government in 2015 to formalise arrangements for the development of a feasibility study into voluntary amalgamations and shared services proposals for the four South East Tasmanian Councils (the Councils).

To facilitate the study process, the State Government through the auspice of the Local Government Division, established a panel of four consulting groups to quote for the undertaking of the studies with KPMG being appointed the preferred contractor.

A steering committee comprising the Mayor and General Manager of each of the Councils was established to provide oversight to the process.

The process concluded September 2016 with the submission of the final report by KPMG – South East Councils Feasibility Study, which was received formally by Council at the December 2016 Ordinary meeting.

It should also be noted that subsequent to the South East Councils Feasibility Study being completed by KPMG, Break O'Day Council commissioned KPMG to investigate the possibility of a boundary adjustment that would involve “splitting” Glamorgan Spring Bay Council in the vicinity of Cherry Tree Hill. This would transfer the Bicheno/Coles Bay area to Break O'Day Council. This option was not included in the scope of the community consultation, which was based on the South East Councils Feasibility Study only.

The overall process can be summarised as follows:

- All Councils to receive the final KPMG report by December 2016;
- All Councils to undertake community consultation in 2017;
- Councils to consider public feedback and determine by December 2017 if they are to continue with exploring voluntary amalgamations and if so, based on what preferred option(s);
- Assuming there are at least two neighbouring Councils who have adopted the same option, a due diligence process to be undertaken through a formal review process to be carried out by the Local Government Board; and
- Consideration of Local Government Board findings by Council and final determination.

The purpose of this report is for Council to formally receive and note the community consultation results and determine the next step(s) in the process. That is, whether to continue with the process and if so, to nominate a preferred option(s) to be the subject of a due diligence assessment by the Board of Local Government.

Community Consultation

At the March 2017 Ordinary Meeting, Council approved a community consultation process to ascertain community views on the voluntary Council amalgamation options identified in the South East Councils Feasibility Study.

The purpose of consultation was to gauge, in broad terms, the general community interest in amalgamations. It was designed to ascertain what the 'community feel' is on the topic, as to whether the community was 'for' or 'against' amalgamations, and also what the preferred options are should Councils amalgamate.

The consultation process was not a formal voting process. It was an opportunity for residents and ratepayers to express their view on the issue via panel discussions and a survey questionnaire.

The consultation was designed purely to provide the Council with a general view of the community opinion, to assist Council in making a decision in December 2017 as to whether to further progress with the amalgamation process and request the Minister to undertake a due diligence assessment and community consultation through a Local Government Board Review on the preferred option(s). It is not a decision to amalgamate.

Any further decision after the Local Government Board Review, 'the decision to amalgamate', would be subject to further deliberation between Council and the Minister.

Consultation Approach

1. Discussion Panel - Community Information Sessions

Three (3) community information sessions were conducted at the end of April 2017 utilising a discussion panel approach. These took place in Bicheno, Swansea and Triabunna/Orford on the 28th and 29th of April 2017.

Each panel consisted of five-six (5-6) participants:

- Chair, Dr E R (Eva) Ruzicka
- KPMG Enterprise Advisory (as authors of the South East Councils Feasibility Study)
- Two (2) Councillors
- David Metcalf, General Manager

The sessions were broadly advertised using a range of local and statewide mediums and channels to encourage best possible community engagement and participation in the process from Glamorgan Spring Bay residents and ratepayers.

The main objectives of the sessions were:

- Inform the community of the key findings from the KPMG feasibility study on which the community would be asked their preferences and opinions i.e. overview of shared services and the four amalgamation options.
- Discuss the pros and cons of these options as outlined in the report.
- Communicate the potential impact of each of these options on the individual resident and/or ratepayer of Glamorgan Spring Bay and the community as a whole (i.e. what is and isn't in it for me and my community?).

Attendance of residents/ratepayers at each of the community information sessions was as follows:

- Bicheno 45
- Swansea 18
- Triabunna/Orford 35

2. Community Survey

The community survey was conducted from **9th October until the 17th November 2017**.

Total Sample N = 556

This represents a response rate of 9% based on a total ratepayer/resident base of 5,945, in line with average response rates for community surveys in Australia of between 10% and 15%.

A sample size of 500 provides a standard error of percentage of between 1% to 2%.

The community survey was designed to give both residents and ratepayers the opportunity to give their opinion on voluntary Council amalgamations.

All ratepayers were sent a letter from the General Manager providing an overview of the process to date, a summary of the report conclusions prepared as a succinct information sheet and details about how to complete the survey online or request a hard copy survey questionnaire with reply paid envelope.

The survey was conducted via the Survey Monkey platform. How to access information and complete the survey was advertised broadly throughout October/November 2017. This included a range of local newsletters, The Examiner and Mercury newspapers, community noticeboards throughout the municipal area and distribution of notices to local community groups. Every effort was made to ensure Council notified residents who are not ratepayers of the survey. All relevant information materials were placed on Council's website along with a link to the online survey. The communication campaign also detailed how to access and complete a hardcopy of the survey questionnaire if preferred.

Findings of Community Consultation Survey

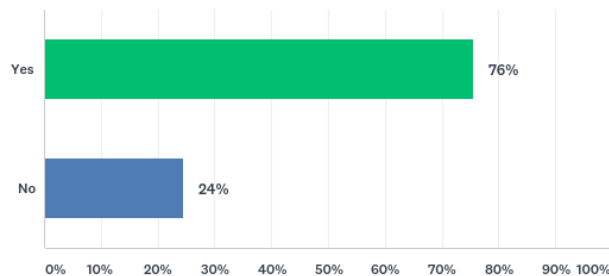
The survey results clearly indicate that the communities of Glamorgan Spring Bay are strongly supportive of voluntary Council amalgamations overall, with an amalgamation of Clarence, Sorell, Tasman and Glamorgan Spring Bay Councils the most preferred option (36%). However, over fifty percent of the sample indicated either an amalgamation of Glamorgan Spring Bay Council with Sorell and Tasman only as a preferred option (29%) or an extension of the shared services arrangements (27%).

As emphasised in the letter to ratepayers/residents, the survey results are not the decision to amalgamate but simply the next step in continuing the process and reaching a point where an independent review is done of the assumptions and modelling that formed the proposed and potential savings / impacts of the KPMG report. It is important the Local Government Board review process be carried out based on more up to date financial information, to provide a transparent and unbiased assessment on the positive and negative effects of any merger outcome.

Q.1 Do you support voluntary Council amalgamations?

Yes	76%
No	24%

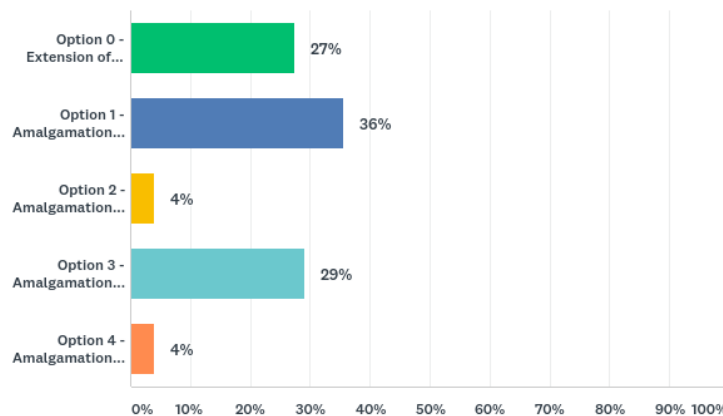
Q1 Do you support voluntary Council amalgamations?



Q.4 Even if you do not support voluntary amalgamations, can you please indicate below your preferred option? (Single response only)

- Option 1 - Amalgamation Clarence, Sorell, Tasman & GSBC 36%
- Option 3 - Amalgamation Sorell, Tasman & GSBC 29%
- Option 0 - Extension of shared services arrangements 27%
- Option 2 - Amalgamation Clarence, Sorell, Tasman 4%
- Option 4 - Amalgamation Sorell & Tasman 4%

Q4 Even if you do not support voluntary amalgamations, can you please indicate below your preferred option?



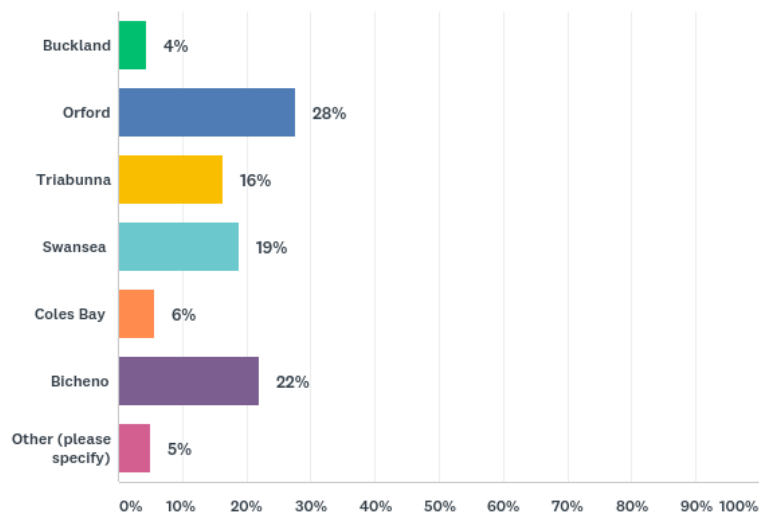
Q.7 Which of the following best describes your circumstances?

- A GSB ratepayer and permanent resident in the municipal area 58%
- A GSB ratepayer but NOT a permanent resident in the municipal area 37%
- A permanent resident of GSB but not a ratepayer 3%
- Other 2%

Q.9 Where in Glamorgan Spring Bay do you live (or which is the nearest town)?

- Orford 28%
- Bicheno 22%
- Swansea 19%
- Triabunna 16%
- Coles Bay 6%
- Buckland 4%
- Other 5%

Q9 Where in Glamorgan Spring Bay do you live (or which is the nearest town)?



Statutory Implications

Nil.

Budget Implications

An offer was received through the Minister for Local Government for the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC) to contribute up to 50% of costs associated with the public consultation process.

Recommendations

1. That Council resolves to receive and note the results of the community consultation regarding voluntary council amalgamations (South East Councils Feasibility Study 2016).
2. That Council resolves to continue with the voluntary amalgamation process.
3. That Council resolves to request, pursuant to Section 214(2)(b) of the Local Government Act 1993, the Minister for Planning and Local Government to require the Local Government Board to undertake a review that includes a due diligence assessment of the amalgamation options 1 – 4 (inclusive).
4. That Council resolves to request the Minister for Planning and Local Government that the Council be consulted on the matters that the Local Government Board review will take into account in accordance with Section 214A of the Local Government Act 1993.
5. That Council resolves to request the Local Government Board to investigate boundary adjustments with other Councils including Southern Midlands (to make a uniform Municipality) and the Break O'Day Council, given some Bicheno residents have expressed a desire to have a boundary adjustment from Cherry Tree Hill to the Denison River and be joined with the Break O'Day Municipality. *

**Please note the option of a boundary adjustment with Break O'Day Council was not measured as an option in the community survey and is based on qualitative discussions and feedback from residents only.*

Decision: 1/18

Moved Cllr Jenny Woods, seconded Cllr Debbie Wisby, that the matter be discussed.

**The motion was put and carried unanimously
(8 Votes to 0)**

For: Mayor Michael Kent, Deputy Mayor Cheryl Arnol, Cllr Jenifer Crawford, Cllr Mick Fama, Cllr Richard Parker, Cllr Britt Steiner, Cllr Jenny Woods, Cllr Debbie Wisby.

Against:

Attachment:

Voluntary Council Amalgamations – Community Survey Questionnaire



Decision: 2/18

Moved Cllr Debbie Wisby, seconded Cllr Jenny Woods, that Council defer the decision of voluntary council amalgamations to the next ordinary meeting of Council to allow time to further analyse survey results and consider impacts on the municipal area.

**The motion was put and carried
(7 Votes to 1)**

For: Deputy Mayor Cheryl Arnol, Cllr Jenifer Crawford, Cllr Mick Fama, Cllr Richard Parker, Cllr Britt Steiner, Cllr Jenny Woods, Cllr Debbie Wisby.

Against: Mayor Michael Kent

3. CLOSE

The Mayor will declare the Special Meeting closed at 5.18pm.

The live streaming and recording of meetings will now be switched off. Mayor to check that the streaming has been terminated.

CONFIRMED as a true and correct record.

Date:

Mayor Michael Kent AM