

## WEST COAST COUNCIL

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Dear Mr Ferguson

### Comment on Behalf of the West Coast Community

I believe that the majority of West Coast residents agree with the concept of One Health System for everyone. The changes if implemented with the intent of creating better health outcomes will be better for all Tasmanians.

West Coast residents seeking acute services upwards already need to travel at a minimum to Burnie some 150 klm, or 300 klm to Launceston or Hobart. The key for us is accessing these services in a timely manner which on occasions would include overnight stays not necessarily in a hospital environment.

Whilst it would be fair to say the frail, aged and elderly are most in need of these services the issue of good healthcare and access to it crosses all age groups from birth onwards.

We currently have a Community Transport System that is manned by volunteer drivers. The service does an excellent job within its limitations. An expansion of the service may be an option to improve access issues. West Coast Council would very much like to be part of a solution rather than part of the problem. To this end if we can assist in the formation and implementation of a Transport & Accommodation Strategy for West Coast residents we are keen to play a role.

We currently have two Community Health Centres, Queenstown and Rosebery. With Queenstown providing age care via the Lyell Wing and Rosebery a basic accident and emergency transfer facility to Burnie. Age Care needs are only going to increase and the Queenstown facility is well positioned to cater for this. Likewise with the Rosebery facility being supported by MMG Mine it can continue to provide a level of service as an accident and emergency transfer platform and perhaps a point for visiting specialists, all said and done it is 1hr and 15mins from Burnie. Again West Coast Council would be keen to engage with DHHS on any proposed development or change at these sites.

Yours sincerely

Phil Vickers  
Mayor



