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# SUBMISSION

**Derwent Valley**  
COUNCIL

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## Our Community:

Major features of the Derwent Valley municipality include its land and fresh water resources. The region has lakes and river water supplies and productive soils. Some of the other features of the Derwent Valley municipality are:-

- its people - the population is around 11,000, its workforce - skilled and semi-skilled forestry, agricultural, health care and service industry workers;
- its land and fresh water resources - the region has lakes and river water supplies and productive soils;
- its farmland and agricultural industries - the region has traditional farming of beef and sheep, an internationally competitive hop industry as well as emerging specialties agriculture such as essential oils and cherries;
- its wilderness and natural areas - the region has national and world standard parks and conservation areas; its lakes, rivers and water storages - the region has hydro electricity generation operations as well as fresh water fishing and related recreational and tourism activities;
- its unique river valley environments - the region has spectacular mountain and river landscapes and is a popular rural residential area and scenic area for tourism;
- its proximity to the Hobart metropolitan area - the area is approximately 30 minutes from Hobart which provides opportunities for employment, services and potential growth, and;
- its history - first settled by Norfolk Islanders as early as 1807. The Valley has retained a fine array of colonial architecture ranging in variety from oast houses, humble cottages, grand mansions, and a heritage railway linking many of our historic towns and villages, Mt Field National Park and Hobart.

## Our concerns:

One of the major concerns is that New Norfolk is classified as Modified Monash Model 2 (MMM2) placing us in the same categorisation as Sandy Bay, Hobart, not as the hub of the Derwent Valley / Central Highlands with a significantly different demographic and health profile.

- Redistribution of the MMM zoning would provide more appropriate alignment with the socio economic disadvantage and level of complexity and smaller number of people within the population. At present we are considered a Regional Centre (MMM2) which means we have the same classification as locations with far denser populations and that are significantly more affluent.
- New Norfolk is effectively a regional centre with a population of around 6,000 however the bulk of the Derwent Valley Council Area is made up of Small Rural Towns more aligned with the characteristics under the schedule for MMM5.

## **Our health needs:**

The Derwent Valley medical centre covers an expansive area and a number of communities including, Molesworth, New Norfolk, Lachlan, Bushy Park, Ouse, Gretna, Hamilton, Mt Field, Westerway, Ellendale, Maydena and a number of smaller community and remote Tourist destinations. In recent years our General Practitioner workforce has not kept pace with the growing size of our population and the complex nature of the health issues presenting. Incentivising attracting General Practitioners is essential to ensure there is the correct level of resourcing for the Derwent Valley and surrounds.

- A change to the MMM schedule would potentially entice more Doctors to establish their practice in the Derwent Valley as the MMM was developed to better target health workforce programs to attract health professionals to more remote and smaller communities.
- We believe a boundary change would allow for GPs access to greater subsidies and build a viable practice over time.
- A change to the MMM would also incentivise GPs to work in the Derwent Valley, access more patients from the broader municipality (ie extending further into the upper Derwent Valley) and ultimately improve health outcomes for a largely disadvantaged community with a range of chronic conditions.
- By having a properly funded and appropriately staffed Medical Centre, it would reduce the burden on the Royal Hobart Hospital (RHH).
- Weekend access would improve. Currently the Derwent Valley medical centre is not open on weekends or after hours causing people to defer treatment or place great burden on the hospital system.
- The Derwent Valley Community has 3.5 times higher rates than the average population for type 2 diabetes, 3.5 times the rate of the average population of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and 2.5 times the rate of the average population of ischemic heart disease. Appropriately classifying our community under the MMM would contribute significantly to providing resources improve the health outcomes of the population.