

BATHURST REGIONAL COUNCIL – CIP

FIT

Area (km ²)	3,819	Population 2011	39,950
OLG Group	4	(2031)	51,550
ILGRP Group	E	Merger 2011	45,150
		(2031)	56,500
Operating revenue (2013-14)	\$50.8m	TCorp assessment	Moderate FSR, Negative Outlook
ILGRP options (no preference)	Council in Central West JO (all shaded) or merge with Oberon (yellow).		



Assessment summary	Scale and capacity	Satisfies
	Financial criteria:	Satisfies overall
	• Sustainability	Satisfies
	• Infrastructure and service management	Satisfies
	• Efficiency	Satisfies

Fit for the Future – FIT

- The council satisfies the scale and capacity criterion.
- The council satisfies the financial criteria overall. It satisfies the sustainability, infrastructure and service management and efficiency criteria.

Scale and capacity - satisfies

- The council's proposal is consistent with the ILGRP's option to stand alone.
- The council states it met with Blayney, Oberon and Lithgow councils to discuss merger options and that a merger was not pursued because the other councils did not support a merger.
- We do not have sufficient evidence to evaluate the costs and benefits of a merger option compared to the stand alone proposal.

Sustainability – satisfies

- The council satisfies the criterion for sustainability based on its forecast to meet the benchmarks for the operating performance, the own source revenue and the building and infrastructure asset renewal ratios by 2019-20.
- The council meets the operating performance ratio with the inclusion of significant ongoing land sales forecast over the next 10-20 years.

Infrastructure and service management – satisfies

- The council satisfies the criterion for infrastructure and service management based on its forecast to meet the asset maintenance, infrastructure backlog and debt service benchmarks by 2019-20.

Efficiency - satisfies

- The council satisfies the criterion for efficiency based on its forecast for a decline in real operating expenditure over the period to 2019-20.

Other relevant factors

Social and community context	The proposal did not contain any relevant social and community context information for this criterion.
Community consultation	Bathurst states in its proposal that it met with Blayney, Lithgow and Oberon councils to discuss merger options but a merger was not pursued because the other councils did not support a merger. The proposal did not provide any details of community consultation.
Water and/or sewer	Bathurst Regional Council states its water and sewerage operations meet the requirements of the NSW Government's Best Practice Management of Water Supply and Sewerage Framework. The water and sewer business operates on a break-even basis and the council estimates that it has an infrastructure backlog of \$48 million. Bathurst has a number of significant capital projects planned over the next three years related to water mains and new water and sewer infrastructure for the town of Kelso (\$10m) to be funded by grants or external funding.
Submissions	No submissions were received in relation to Bathurst Regional Council's proposal.