



ATTACHMENT 1

Temora and Coolamon Shire Councils' Correspondence



Please contact Mr Tony Donoghue
Council Ref. TD:GOB:L05-05 (SC275)
Your Ref.

19 May 2015



T: 02 6930 1800
F: 02 6922 1158
P.O. Box 101, Coolamon, NSW 2701
E: council@coolamon.nsw.gov.au
W: www.coolamon.nsw.gov.au
ABN: 32 573 173 265

Mr Ray Smith
General Manager
Bland Shire Council
P O Box 21
WEST WYALONG NSW 2671

Dear Ray

**RE: LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM
FIT FOR THE FUTURE**

In view of the recent developments around Local Government Reform, in particular IPART's 'Methodology for Assessment of Councils Fit for the Future Proposals', Coolamon Shire Council would like to formally record our intention to remain as an Independent Local Government Authority.

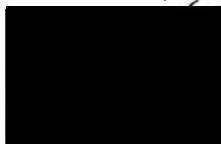
It is noted that the Councils of Coolamon, Bland and Temora were included as a possible merger in the ILGRP report. Whilst our Councils have held some informal discussions in regard to this matter and the process involved, it is Coolamon's intentions to continue to serve our Communities as a Stand Alone Council.

Coolamon Shire Council has consulted with its Communities and the response has been overwhelming that Coolamon Shire should maintain its independence. This together with some minor changes to our financial management and service delivery will see us in a strong and robust position.

We believe that we meet the intentions of the Fit for Future proposals and can continue to provide our Communities with value for money services and infrastructure. Not to mention the representation and commitment that we give to all our Communities to ensure their long term survival.

Coolamon Shire Council would like to thank you for your open and honest discussions in regard to this matter, and formally advise you that it is Coolamon Shire Council's intention that in order to service their communities appropriately, will be submitting a Rural Council Proposal as an option available for Group C Councils.

Yours sincerely



Tony Donoghue
General Manager

File: ...	GOV-AMA-COUN	Action
Action Officer: ...	Gm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
REC'D	21 MAY 2015	
Copy to: ...	Bland Shire Council	

Please contact Mr Tony Donoghue
Council Ref. TD:GOB:L.05-05
Your Ref.

7 October 2014



T: 02 6930 1800
F: 02 6927 3168
P.O. Box 101, Coolamon, NSW 2701
E: council@coolamon.nsw.gov.au
W: www.coolamon.nsw.gov.au
ABN: 32 573 173 265

Mr Ray Smith
General Manager
Bland Shire Council
P O Box 21
WEST WYALONG NSW 2671

File:.....	G - Amal. Cncls	Action
Action Officer:	C.M.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
REC'D	10 OCT 2014	
Copy to:	Bland Shire Council	

Dear Ray

RE: FIT FOR THE FUTURE – STRONGER, SMARTER COUNCILS

Council is in receipt of your correspondence dated 18 September, 2014 regarding the documents titled "Fit for the Future – Stronger, Smarter Councils".

Whilst we agree with your assessment of the options that have been made available to Councils of our size, Coolamon Shire does not consider that a merger is in the best interest of our residents.

The current information provided by the Department of Local Government does not indicate the exact nature of JO's nor the definition or structure of a Rural Council Model. Accordingly, it is thought that the initial discussion with the Government should be about establishing exactly what these two bodies will look like and what it will mean to those Local Government Areas that join them.

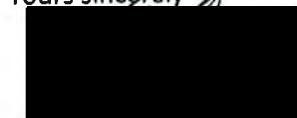
For the Government to set up JO's with the inclusion of Rural Councils and to also push for mergers is considered an each way bet. Therefore Coolamon Shire will be focusing its energy on supporting REROC as the JO Model and establishing the criteria and impact of pursuing the Rural Council Model.

Coolamon Shire is happy to discuss the issues and proposed positions around JO's and the Rural Council Model, but will not entertain any formal discussions about a merger.

Council believes that it is in the best interests of our residents and ratepayers that Coolamon Shire remains as an independent Local Government body whereby it can administer governance and represent its communities on the issues that affect them.

Should you wish to further discuss this matter I am happy to meet informally and explain our position.

Yours sincerely



Tony Donoghue
General Manager



TEMORA SHIRE COUNCIL

Our reference:

GCL:ATR:C/08/01

30 September 2014

Mr Ray Smith
General Manager
Bland Shire Council
PO Box 21
WEST WYALONG NSW 2671

Dear Ray

Thank you for your correspondence of 18 September 2014 regarding the *Fit for the Future* documents recently released by the State Government.

On initial reading of the documents, we concur with your summary of the options available to Councils of a similar size to Bland & Temora Councils. Hopefully the details regarding the proposals will be clarified, to some extent during the initial meeting with the Office of Local Government.

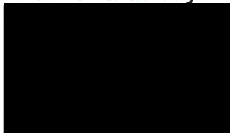
In relation to discussions regarding the options, Temora Council would be pleased to meet with you to discuss options 1 & 2 and the implementations and opportunities arising from these options.

It should be noted up front however that Council will not discuss or even entertain the concept of a merger as we believe this will be deleterious to our residents. Our position in the structural reform debate has been, and remains, that we believe that our Council have the necessary strength to remain independent and this view was supported by TCorp. We are however strongly committed to the JO concept and the need to achieve independence without the step toward a "Rural Council" concept.

Accordingly it is probably best to meet informally to discuss this matter. If you are travelling through Temora and have some time spare, please give me a call and we will try to meet.

Thank you for contacting Council regarding this important matter.

Yours faithfully



G.C. Lavelle
GENERAL MANAGER

Address:
105 Loftus St,
PO Box 262
TEMORA NSW 2666

Telephone: (02) 6980 1100
Facsimile: (02) 6980 1138
Email: temshire@temora.nsw.gov.au
Website: www.temora.nsw.gov.au
DX: 5494 Temora