

**UPPER LACHLAN SHIRE COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE**  
**ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL**  
**HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**ON 18 JUNE 2015**

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**ITEM 12.5            LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM - FIT FOR THE FUTURE  
COUNCIL IMPROVEMENT PROPOSAL**

**154/15            RESOLVED by Cllr Barlow and Cllr McCormack**

1. Council endorses the "Fit for the Future - Council Improvement Proposal (Existing Structure)" submission and forwards it to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal.

- CARRIED

A motion was moved by Cllr Shaw and Cllr McCormack that a vote of thanks be passed on to the General Manager, Directors and staff involved in the preparation of the Fit for the Future submission and also to the residents who have written to offer their support for the Council's submission.

On being put to the meeting the motion was carried and became the resolution.

**155/15            RESOLVED by Cllr Shaw and McCormack that**

1. A vote of thanks be passed on to the General Manager, Directors and staff involved in the preparation of the Fit for the Future submission and also to the residents who have written to offer their support for the Council's submission.

**ITEM 12.6            MEETING WITH NSW MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES,  
AND MINISTER FOR LANDS AND WATER**

**156/15            RESOLVED by Cllr Searl and Cllr O'Brien**

1. Council receives and notes the report as information.

- CARRIED



## **Crookwell Community Outreach Meeting**

**6 May 2015 @ 6.30pm – Council Chambers, Crookwell**

### **Councillors and Council Staff Present:**

John Shaw (Mayor), Cllr John Searl, Cllr Jo Marshall, Cllr Paul Culhane, Cllr Brian McCormack, John Bell (GM), Andrew Croke (DFA), Phil Newham (DOW) and Tina Dodson (DEP)

### **Councilor Apologies:**

Cllr Malcolm Barlow, Cllr Scott Craig, Cllr Darren O'Brien and Cllr James Wheelwright

### **Apologies:**

[REDACTED] – all provided written confirmation of wanting Council to stand alone.

**Number of Attendees: 52**

**Fit For the Future Proposal – Unanimous for Stand Alone proposal.**

- Council commended for the proposal to date.
- Community members keen to help Council in any way possible
- Media releases – will there be more
- How does the community voice their say on the endorsed stand alone option
- Request for contact details to send submissions to OLG, Minister Toole and Member for Goulburn to be front page on the Crookwell Gazette

### **General Issues Raised by Community Members:**

#### **Tourism and Economic Development**

- Funding for Tourism and Economic Development to be increased
- What if any is Council providing incentives to new businesses
- Require Main Street beautification
- Attendees offered support in providing ideas towards the ULTA and EDTF
- Issues rose regarding the need for a strategy for Economic Development.

#### **Crookwell Skate Park**

- Confirmation was sought regarding funding of the Crookwell Skate Park – it was stated that should the local community fund raise \$6K before the setting of the 16/17 budget Council would consider committing \$80K towards matching grant funding for the proposal.

Clock in the Main Street – what is proposed?

**Meeting Closed at 8.50pm.**



## **Bigga Community Outreach Meeting**

**5 May 2015 @ 6.30pm – Bigga Golf Club, Bigga**

### **Councillors and Council Staff Present:**

John Shaw (Mayor), Cllr John Searl, Cllr Jo Marshall, Cllr Paul Culhane, John Bell (GM), Andrew Croke (DFA), Phil Newham (DOW and Tina Dodson (DEP)

### **Councilor Apologies:**

Cllr Malcolm Barlow, Cllr Scott Craig, Cllr Darren O'Brien, Cllr Brian McCormack and Cllr James Wheelwright

**Number of Attendees: 25**

**Fit For the Future Proposal** – Unanimous Consensus for Stand Alone proposal.

### **General Issues Raised by Community Members:**

- Reids Flat Road
  - Requesting that work be undertaken to improve condition and sealing.
  - If condition of road was improved the usage of the road would increase.
  - Community aware of the need to obtain an external funding source
  - A formal petition was handed to Council regarding the request for works to be undertaken on "Boilers Hill" and Reids Flat Road.
  - Community requested advice on strategies available to place political pressure on the issue at a state level.
  - Community wanted to highlight that Reids Flat Road would be considered a transport route for stock movements to sale yards.
- Clarification was sought on a B-double route from Crookwell River Bridge and the possibility of installing an unhooking turning circle.
- Clarification was sought on Kangaroo Creek Bridge as to whether a B-double could cross the bridge and if so can a B-double route be designated all the way through to Bigga.
- A Thank You to Council regarding the recent works undertaken at the camping ground area.
- Concerns raised regarding the unsightly state of some properties in the village – can Council please investigate.
- Congratulation to Council works staff for their politeness and integrity whilst undertaking works in the area.
- A request from a member of the community for a key to access the community tip.

**Meeting Closed at 8.20pm.**



## **Taralga Community Outreach Meeting**

**19 May 2015 @ 6.30pm – Taralga Sports Club, Taralga**

### **Councillors and Council Staff Present:**

John Shaw (Mayor), Cllr John Searl, Cllr Paul Culhane, Cllr Scott Craig, Cllr Brian McCormack, John Bell (GM), Andrew Croke (DFA) and Phil Newham (DOW).

### **Councilor Apologies:**

Cllr Malcolm Barlow, Cllr Darren O'Brien, Cllr Jo Marshall, Cllr James Wheelwright and Tina Dodson.

██████████ - provided correspondence to confirm that they want Council to stand alone.

**Number of Attendees:** 31

**Fit For the Future Proposal** – Unanimous Consensus for Stand Alone proposal.

### **General Issues Raised by Community Members:**

- Query regarding Joint Organisation – compared to a co-operative with savings through purchasing, training etc.
- Bottom line deficit for Goulburn Mulwaree Council would ensure that Upper Lachlan Shire Council would inherit a deficit.
- Bridges in former Mulwaree Shire are weight limited costing local transport operators in excess of what should be required to transport stock - not the case in Upper Lachlan Shire Council.
- Query regarding 10,000 population limit – no longer to be a standard according to Department of Local Government.
- Two issues – Securing funding for the future and in the event of a merge, private works income would disappear into consolidated revenue for Goulburn Mulwaree Council.
- Amalgamation means loss of local jobs and less services.
- Whilst ever Council can stand in mid-ring and keep punching please do so on behalf of the community – no to amalgamation.
- Council have kept core employee numbers since 2004.
- Councillor succession plan required for the future for the local areas.
- Why 211 people as a sample when population is 7600 – 3% sample used.

- How much spent on local roads maintenance - \$2.8 million annually.
- Why is Grabine Road funded for road construction and sealing and Wombeyan Caves road is not?
- What is the chance of more grading and gravelling on the eastern side of shire.
- Road hierarchy needs to be re-examined with respect to rainfall amounts in the eastern part of the shire – more rain equals more grading/gravelling.
- Bannaby Road between 7 to 9 km east of Taralga (Bannaby Hill) area – requires reflector posts due to ongoing fog issues; work request form required.
- Goodhew Park – repairs of the boundary fence at the rear of the park are required.
- Bannaby Street – 200 metre section of road – vehicles travel on the wrong side of the road to avoid the deteriorated road – can council bring the funding allocated in 2016/2017 budget forward.

Meeting closed: 8.30pm

**Meeting Closed at 8.30pm.**



## **Gunning Community Outreach Meeting**

**12 May 2015 @ 6.30pm – Council Chambers, Gunning**

### **Councillors and Council Staff Present:**

John Shaw (Mayor), Cllr John Searl, Cllr Jo Marshall, Cllr Paul Culhane, John Bell (GM), Andrew Croke (DFA), Phil Newham (DOW) and Tina Dodson (DEP)

### **Councillor Apologies:**

Cllr Malcolm Barlow, Cllr Scott Craig, Cllr Darren O'Brien and Cllr James Wheelwright, Cllr Brian McCormack

### **Apologies:**

Nil.

**Number of Attendees: 21**

**Fit For the Future Proposal – Stand Alone proposal – 2 against**

### **General Issues Raised by Community Members:**

- Bevendale Road – statement made that grading work is not being undertaken correctly
- Gundaroo Road v Grabben Gullen Road
  - Concerns raised that Crookwell end of MR52 receives more attention than Gunning end of MR52
- Gundaroo Road
  - Clarification sought on the priority of components/segment areas of work on Gundaroo Road – Gold Club section to be completed initially
  - Clarification sought that fog lines will be included as part of the works on Gundaroo Road – Fog lines will be included as per RMS standards
- Waste Disposal – is recycling cost effective
  - Perception that the same truck is collecting normal waste and recycling
  - Further education is required for residents on recycling
- Dalton to Boorowa Road – any chance of having the road sealed
- MR92 from Nerriga – what is the status of the project
- MR52 – clarification sought on the cost if the road received regular maintenance over a period of time v cost of total reconstruction that is now required
- Noxious Weeds – Council's Noxious Weeds Officer Rob Gorman should be commended on the work he has been undertaking in the Gunning area.
- Biala Wind Farm – clarification sought on Council's stance on the proposal as well as the proposed electricity transmission line route
- Sand Quarry – clarification sought on the extraction contributions paid by the operator.
- Tourism Office – concerns raised regarding the perception in the community that Gunning does not have a Tourist Information presence in the village
- Community Survey – clarification sought on the questions asked in the community survey – were they standard template questions
- Council communications – discussions regarding the dissemination of information pertaining to Council projects and achievements

- Signage
  - Upgrade for Gunning Village required
  - clarification was sought on the status of updating village signs at Jerrawa and Dalton
  - Sydney and Melbourne directional signage was requested on the Highway and at locations exiting the Gunning village
- Council Flood Survey – the maps on the survey where incorrectly identified

**Meeting Closed at 8.35pm.**

# ***Go Crookwell***

## **Report of the Working Group Evaluating Amalgamation**

**6th May 2015**

### **Introduction**

*Go Crookwell* established this Working Group to evaluate the question of Shire amalgamation in the upcoming NSW review of Local Government, known as ***Fit for the Future*** (*F for the F*).

### **Reasoning:**

There is continuing media controversy about whether Upper Lachlan Shire could be subsumed by Goulburn Mulwaree.

One only has to read today's Goulburn Post newspaper to see that Goulburn Mulwaree is still sending out mixed messages about their ambitions towards Upper Lachlan.

From extensive consultations we found the reaction in our community has been overwhelming against amalgamation. *Go Crookwell* with its **primary purpose, to assemble and implement a community Vision to enhance our Shire, realized it must first ascertain whether our Shire would continue to exist.**

### **Timeline.**

Since *F for the F* was first mooted and through 2014, Councils communication strategy to involve and energize the community participation, proved unsuccessful. Councils confidence and reassurances masked the potential consequences of *F for the F*.

Now that *Go Crookwell* has been formed by well attended a succession of community meetings, this community is energized.

*F for the F* is the first priority and the community wishes to support ULSC in a successful submission to secure our future independence.

Council will make its *F for the F* submission to Government shortly, in June 2015.

### **Consultation.**

Our sometimes vigorous consultations reflected the unanimous view at our community meetings that the qualities of Crookwell and Shire were more desirable than those of adjoining Shires. Therefore amalgamation was to be opposed.



For objectivity however the strength of any pro amalgamation arguments were also sought out.

**Our enquiries took into account:-**

- Published Academic papers
- Meetings and discussions with the community
- Officers of our own and of other Shires
- Members of Parliament including at Ministerial level
- Dialogue with the Office of the Minister for Local Government
- Consulting the Department Relationship Manager for Upper Lachlan
- Morrison Low, Consultants to ULSC.

**Evaluation.**

Our evaluation of *F for the F* began against a perception of time running out. Despite public assurances that amalgamation was not being sought, there remained deep concerns about unstated agendas to amalgamate. It did not help that we were unable to view the Draft ULSC submission in preparation.

In Upper Lachlan at least, we found no evidence of hidden agendas. The same cannot be said for a certain other Council.

Nor could we find from another Shire, any significant empirical advantages that would accrue from amalgamation. Only disadvantages for Upper Lachlan.

So our attention turned to whether ULSC was adopting the best possible submission strategy. To the uninitiated, and even to some in positions of authority, it appeared the best strategy was to make a submission in the Small rural council category and not in the intended council improvement mainstream category.

This was because the small rural category appeared to offer advantages for special consideration, an Innovation Fund and other benefits.

Of late however, as answers to our enquiries came in, these concerns about the Small Rural category versus mainstream council improvement category were resolved. Indeed many of the small so called advantages of the small category, were found to be merely consolation for what would be a serious diminution or loss of important Council responsibilities, to the point of rendering it just a token Council gutted of key functions.

## **Results of the Evaluation.**

1. ULSC is preparing to submit in the appropriate category, mainstream Council improvement *F for the F* category.
2. The *Go Crookwell* evaluation had to be quick because Councils previous communication strategy to gain community interest was demonstrably ineffectual.
3. *Go Crookwell* with its strong community support base, is able to offer Council its support for a successful *F for the F* submission to remain as a non-amalgamated Shire.
4. *Go Crookwell* notes the views of the Ministers Office that Shire submissions which demonstrate **high levels of community support will be well regarded.**

Similarly, written objections to amalgamation which individuals might lodge, are important and will be taken into account.

( We can draw our own conclusions about submissions which lack strong expressions of community support.)

We therefore look to **ULSC to value the community support from *Go Crookwell* and to develop a close and ongoing working relationship with *Go Crookwell*.**

5. The evaluation found that predominantly the community regards ULSC as a competent Council, which sets it above many nearby Shires.
6. Overwhelmingly however the community also saw ULSC as having concentrated its attention on managing the status quo at the expense of the future enhancement of Shire values such as heritage and progress.
7. *Go Crookwell* has worked hard to assemble a community supported Vision for our Shire. We offer our support to Council as the first step towards achieving our mission, ....to develop a close working relationship with ULSC for successful public/private partnerships which will enhance the community wellbeing in our Upper Lachlan Shire

### **Recommendations.**

- 1.** Support ULSC and its consultants, Morrison Low, to submit the best possible *F for the F* submission for ULSC to remain a successful non-amalgamated Shire.
- 2.** We call upon members of the community to write individually to the Minister for Local Government stating their support for ULSC and strongly objecting to any move towards amalgamation.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
15 June 2015

Dear Sir,

FORMAL OBJECTION TO AMALGAMATION

As a resident of Crookwell for 64 years and a member of Crookwell Shire Council and Upper Lachlan Shire Council for 8 years, I lodge an objection to the amalgamation of Upper Lachlan Shire Council with any other council in the "Fit For The Future" review of all NSW councils.

It has been stated that an amalgamation with Goulburn-Mulwaree Council would be the "logical" step to be taken. I dispute this suggestion for the following reasons:-

1. There is no community of interest between the residents of Upper Lachlan Shire and Goulburn-Mulwaree Shire.

We are rural people who do not share the interests of an urban area such as Goulburn.

2. The merged area would be too large to permit proper attention to towns and villages outside the Goulburn City Boundary.

"Bigger" is not necessarily "Better". Relative population numbers would result in the area now controlled by Upper Lachlan having at most two councilors (possibly only one) on any merged body. This would surely result in the Upper Lachlan area receiving less consideration in allocation of funds and the carrying out of necessary works.

3. Upper Lachlan Shire Council is in a sound financial position.

The Financial Assessment, Sustainability and Bench marking Report prepared by the NSW Treasury Corporation in March 2013 stated;-

"The NSW Treasury Corporation believes council is in a sound sustainability position" and "Overall council's financial flexibility is reasonably sound".

The 2014 Financial Report showed a net operating surplus of \$9,123,000 and a total equity of \$427,665,000.

Cont. P.2.

4. Any forced amalgamation would not be democratic.

A professional poll commissioned by Council showed that 80% of the population opposed any amalgamation. The present Baird Government does not have a mandate to forcibly amalgamate our area with another council and the wishes of our residents should be the deciding factor

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

TO:  
The General Manager,  
Upper Lachlan Shire Council,  
CROOKWELL.

Dear Sir,

I would like to respond to your Council's recent call for comments and support on its bid to oppose amalgamation of Upper Lachlan Shire with any neighbouring Local Government area – the obvious one of course being Goulburn Mulwaree.

In more than sixty years of reporting Local Government activities (at Wellington, Mudgee, Broken Hill, Wagga and at Crookwell) I have had the opportunity to watch and assess just how the many and varied Councils have gone about their business.

The two greatest impacts, generally for the good, that changes to LG early on in that sixty years were, firstly, the joining of country towns to the surrounding districts that they served, and secondly, the removal of the Ridings system.

Prior to these changes, many country towns were neglected and often shabby because of limited rating capacity compared to the countryside around them, although their principal purpose was the service those areas.

The Riding system simply created different areas of the same Shire fighting each other for resources – removing these boundaries forced representatives to look on the areas as a whole.

The keynote for the joining of these country towns to their surrounds was “community of interest” – and that should still be the watchword for any moves to further expand.

Upper Lachlan Shire Council administers a large rural area with marked community of interest (primarily pastoral and agricultural) within its current boundaries – and those interests do not necessarily coincide with those of Goulburn – a much more commercialised centre.

Goulburn Mulwaree Council's idea of serving the far flung residents of Upper Lachlan were dramatically illustrated by their notion of how Upper Lachlan would like to spend their share (\$160,000) of the sale of the former Mulwaree Council offices. The suggestion was Upper Lachlan should contribute that money to Goulburn improvements – a performing arts centre or sports amenities

The big fear for Upper Lachlan residents that their disenfranchisement (because of population numbers) in any new combined Councils would mean more schemes such as those mentioned would use rates which currently are used much, much closer to home – and in which they have a much larger say.

Community of interest is the key factor when local rates are to be spent – but the other key is simply good management.

Currently, Upper Lachlan is one of the best managed Local Government areas in the State – in every respect the Council is rated highly. Why on earth would one want to spoil this successful operation by attaching it to an area that has a different agenda and nowhere near the successful operational record?

And the current administration has proved exceptionally beneficial to its residents in areas other than the traditional Road, Rates and Rubbish.

Crookwell, as the commercial centre of the Shire, has an outstanding reputation in the health field – and much of this has come from the moral, financial and practical activities of the Council. Two highly successful aged care facilities – owned by the local community – operate at Crookwell and Taralga, and Crookwell has made great

use of unused hospital buildings to create a health centre with local and specialised medical facilities, very much because the local Council was prepared to support its establishment.

The question is: would the people of Upper Lachlan have had these facilities if the administration was in Goulburn? And would the tremendous local community spirit as it exists now be maintained without that important leadership?

The question must be put: Why potentially destroy a successful administration in a generally harmonious and happy community by linking it to a disparate – and not particularly successful – entity that has different ambitions. The fear Upper Lachlan people have is that their financial contributions – currently working for their direct benefit – will be used to bolster areas in which they have little or no interest?

Because of its widespread current boundaries, many Upper Lachlan residents have little social interest in Goulburn –and within Upper Lachlan's boundaries Crookwell, Gunning, Binda, Bigga, Taralga, Laggan and Tuena provide the major part of the social, commercial, health, sporting and educational needs of its residents.

When the State Government expanded the Crookwell Shire boundaries earlier in this century it created a viable and successful Local Government area with a high degree of community interest. This new entity was fortunate in being served by an efficient and successful administration. Why spoil it? Why does 10,000 population magically describe an ideal base for such success? (Although Upper Lachlan population is getting nearer that mythical figure every year).

There may be some Local Government areas in the State (certainly in the Metropolitan area where community interest would not be markedly affected) that would benefit administratively by amalgamation. It is the very strong feeling of Upper Lachlan people that this is not one of them. Any Government that put the boot into a successful and effective administration would become very unpopular in this area.

Mr. General Manager, these views are general among my circle of friends (and ratepayers). We fully support the Council in its anti-amalgamation position, and hope that the Government, for the sake of unproven so-called benefits, sees fit to leave us as we are – or, perhaps find an adjacent area which would maintain that vital community of interest and would like to become part of a successful and generally happy Local Government area.

If these views are of any value, please use them as you see fit.

Yours etc.,

[Redacted signature block]

Copy to John Bell.

To the Chairman IPart

PO Box K35

HAYMARKET POST SHOP NSW 1240

Action by:
GM / DOW / E / D / D / C / MEP / MFA
MOO / L / T / M / M / N / ESO / HB / RO
15 JUN 2015
REPORT • NOTE • ACK •
UPPER LACHLAN SHIRE COUNCIL

The Chairman

I wish to place my objection to any further amalgamation of the Upper Lachlan Shire Council for the following reasons:

1. Upper Lachlan Shire Council was amalgamated approximately 10 years ago three and a half into one. Gunning, Taralga, Crookwell Shire and Half of Goulburn Mulwaree into one rural shire; this has resulted in a successful Rural Shire of Villages and a prosperous farming community.
2. We do stand up to careful scrutiny of the Economic Sustainability and general happiness of the ratepayers.
3. It is slowly developing a population and is a Historic Rural area with a great lifestyle.
4. It has a strong community of purpose which would not be possible if joined into the Goulburn area.
5. The future prospects of Upper Lachlan rely on a Prosperous Farming Community, Small Business and an increasing Tourist Industry.
6. There are many examples of amalgamations that did not work, for example as the Latrobe Valley in Victoria amalgamated in 1988-89 and still not settled down.

Please leave well enough alone and concentrate on the City Councils.

Yours sincerely

  
BARRY MURPHY



## E-mail Message

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** ipart@ipart.nsw.gov.au [SMTP:ipart@ipart.nsw.gov.au]  
**Cc:** Upper Lachlan Shire Council [EX:/O=UPPER LACHLAN SHIRE COUNCIL/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=COUNCIL]  
**Sent:** 11/06/2015 at 11:34 AM  
**Received:** 11/06/2015 at 11:30 AM  
**Subject:** Formal Objection to the amalgamation of the Upper Lachlan Council with any other Council.

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I am writing to you today in my capacity as a rate payer of the Upper Lachlan Shire Council. I strongly support the aim of the Upper Lachlan Council to stand alone following the "Fit for the Future" review currently being undertaken. Other councils, many much bigger than the Upper Lachlan Shire Council, would do well to look at the sound financial position of our council and use it as a benchmark for their own financial planning into the future.

When I came to Crookwell in the early 1970's I became a ratepayer, and during the 1980's a local business owner. During that time Crookwell Shire Council faced an enormous task of trying to complete the sealing of all of the major roads surrounding Crookwell. Over the years they have made progress with this huge task and with the formation of the Upper Lachlan Shire Council and an injection of funding in the form of long overdue Government Grants this process has been accelerated in recent years. Through astute financial management, the residents of Crookwell and surrounding areas will see every major road sealed. This will open up tourist routes to Bathurst, Orange and Cowra to name just a few destinations as well as improving the safety of the roads in our area for residents and visitors.

Over the years I have worked closely with council. In the capacity of President of the Crookwell Business Development (Chamber of Commerce) over several years, I had the pleasure of working closely with local council and I can attest to the focus of the Upper Lachlan Council to move forward and address the challenges of the future.

A forced amalgamation with any other council would, in my opinion, see forty years of hard work absorbed into a bigger picture where the aims of our residents would no longer be the focus and the voice of our ratepayers easier to ignore if heard at all.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED] 1

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 For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

21st April 2015

**To: Mr Andrew Croke**  
**Director of Finance**  
**Upper Lachlan Shire Council**  
[council@upperlachlan.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@upperlachlan.nsw.gov.au)

Copy to: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Subject: "Fit for the Future" process.**

Dear Mr Croke

I write to thank you for generously taking the time yesterday to meet with me yesterday when I called into Council chambers seeking information about the **"Fit for the Future" submission and process**. I found your comments to be both clear informative thank you.

Although the purpose of my visit to Council was to obtain an early draft, from meeting with your good self, I now understand that Council's submission is still being assembled with the assistance of an external consultant and it is therefore not yet available in confidential draft form.

I was pleased to be able explain the creation and purposes of our community group to you regarding both the progress which we wish to enhance for our Shire as well as more pressing concerns to evaluate this possible Shires amalgamation question. The fact that indicated Council would welcome our interest and offer of co-operation is greatly appreciated.

I was reassured by your comments that Council was already strong on about 5 of the 7 key *"Fit for the Future"* assessment criteria. The other two of course leaving me somewhat apprehensive in the light particularly of the recent bizarre commentary emerging from Goulburn Mulwaree Council as reported in today's press.

As you pointed out to me yesterday however it may well be that Goulburn Mulwaree fall well short on say four criteria themselves in

terms of being able to demonstrate that they would be in a fit position to amalgamate with another Shire or Council.

As I indicated, although Goulburn Mulwaree has said it has held talks with neighbouring Shires, we remain unaware of anywhere that Goulburn Mulwaree has published any empirical material setting out what it could offer in benefits to anyone contemplating merging with them. Such of course being a key question in our evaluation of the amalgamation question.

I should record that I was a little anxious when you informed me that UL Shire was not submitting in the *F for F* Template category which provides for special consideration for Rural Councils trying to demonstrate why they should not otherwise be amalgamated. Rather that Council is approaching the *F for F* process as a mainstream Council which could demonstrate its own self sufficiency and which did not fall into the 'unsustainable, requiring special consideration' category. Our Shire population numbers being one reason for my anxiety.

Nevertheless I took on board your view that whilst you do not expect we will be amalgamated this time around, but you do expect we may be come up for further review in 2020.

Finally I'd like to thank you for the suggestion we write to the Mayor and General Manager of Upper Lachlan with a view to establishing an ongoing line of co-operation and support. I understand the Chairman of our governing Steering Committee, Mr Richard Opie, will write accordingly to Council in the near future and we look forward to supporting and working with you for the benefit of our Shire.

Yours Sincerely



Mayor John Shaw

Upper Lachlan Shire Council

Robertson St.

Cookswell

Dear Sir.

Please accept my apology  
to the Community Outreach meeting to night I

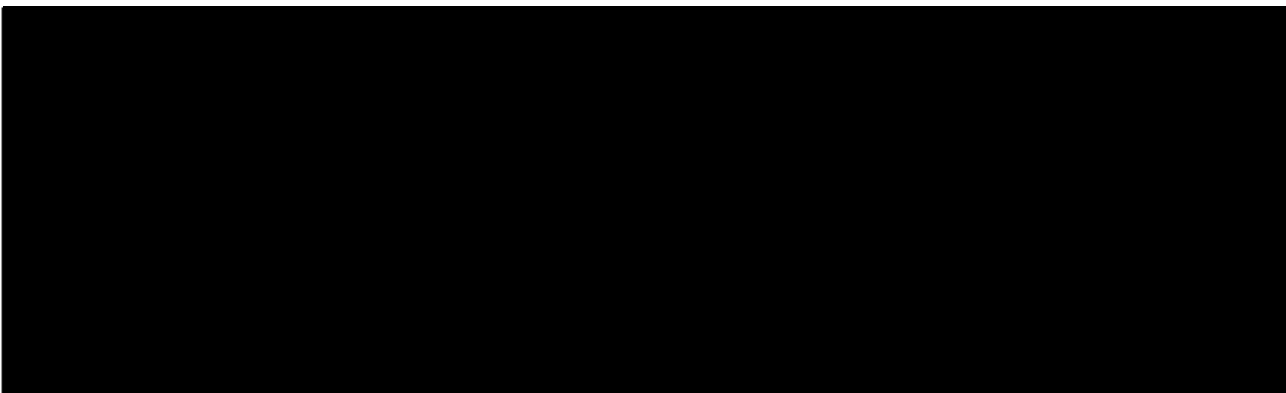
I am unable to attend  
to night. I am definitely against amalgamation  
the Shire is big enough now, we need to remain  
as a stand alone council and carry on with the  
progress you are achieving

Yours faithfully,

Action by:  
GM/DDW/DEP/DFA/EA/MEP/MFA  
MOO/MOW/IT/MNW/ESO/HB/RO  
HRC/PO/OT/OT

- 6 MAY 2015


- REPLY TO REPORT • NOTE & ACK  
UPPER LACHLAN SHIRE COUNCIL



12<sup>th</sup> May. 2015

The Manager  
Upper Lachlan Shire Council  
P O Box  
GUNNING NSW 2581


Dear Sir

My husband  and I wish to submit our objection to any amalgamation of the Upper Lachlan Shire Council with any other council.

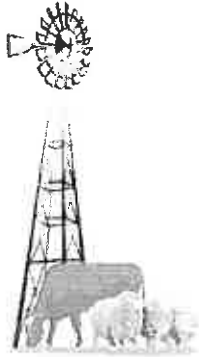
The area that the council now covers is large enough to have contact with current rate payers and interest in the needs of these people as a community. For the council to be swallowed up by a larger body would rend the individual a small voice in the wilderness and the needs of those on the outer perimeter of any area, lost.

The program that council is currently undertaking and has planned for the area is in conjunction with the considered needs of the area and better seen to conclusion with locals on the council.

Yours sincerely



Christine Shepherd (Mrs)



## Rural Financial Counselling Service NSW - Southern Region

[www.rfcsnsw-sr.com.au](http://www.rfcsnsw-sr.com.au)

8 May 2015

Mr. John Bell, General Manager  
Upper Lachlan Council  
Hand Delivery

Dear Mr. Bell;

I was so pleased to get the opportunity to attend the Fit For the Future Community Outreach Meeting this week. And exceeding pleased to see the numbers in attendance.

As the Rural Financial Counsellor for the Upper Lachlan, I would like to make a few comments to Council regarding ideas and comments brought out at the meeting. These are my personal observations and not those of the Service:

1. The basis for this shire is agriculture, predominantly wool, cattle, potatoes, etc. It is generally more effective to, where possible, increase productivity and profitability of existing sectors than to seek renewal and growth from another sector. There is money available from the Rural Assistance Authority, at very low interest rates, for farmers who want to increase the sustainability, viability and profitability of their farm businesses. Taking these actions are in line with Federal and State initiatives to assist farmers to lower the risk profile of the properties and the work undertaken should mean that more revenue will be generated by local service suppliers. There are also a number of low cost opportunities for education and training that will enhance to skills and productivity of farmers.
2. Farmers who can sufficiently increase their productivity on a percentage of their property, might consider selling off excess land to either small farm holders or as rural-residential properties, increasing the housing stock in the Shire.
3. If the Shire is prosperous, it can afford to do the works that residents want, which in and of itself would make the Shire more attractive to new residents, businesses and tourism.
4. Such a community will also give existing residents more choice when they are considering their options for the future, more opportunities for off-farm and youth employment and be more likely to attract and retain family units

Great care needs to be taken to satisfy the needs of the current population (even where they are not vocal about their needs) before we look to attract tourists. But by taking care of these needs, it will make the Shire a natural attraction for tourists. You have to have something tourists want to see and be a part of, before you can get them to come.

Sincerely yours;

Beverly Houterman  
Rural Financial Counsellor - Crookwell

Action by: GM / DOW / DEF / EPA / ENV / MEP / MFA MOO / MOW / IT / LNW / ESO / HB / PO HPC / PO / ...
12 MAY 2015
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