



# PARKES SHIRE COUNCIL

*Progress, opportunities and a quality lifestyle for our residents*

KB:NR

Contact Person: KENT BOYD

26 June 2015

The Hon. Paul Toole MP  
Minister for Local Government  
GPO Box 5341  
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Minister,

## **PARKES SHIRE COUNCIL FIT FOR THE FUTURE REPORT AND PROPOSAL SUBMISSION - SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

I have pleasure in providing Councils' report, proposal and supporting documentation in compliance with the Fit for the Future reform program.

Parkes shire council has considered the recommendations of the local Government independent review panel which suggested that Council either be a Council under a Central West joint Organisation or merge with Lachlan Shire council. Neither option was identified as preferred by the panel.

Council consulted with the community (as part of its mid year Community Consultative program) and with Lachlan Shire council about the merger suggestion. Neither the community nor Lachlan Council preferred the merger.

Council has therefore resolved to prepare 'Template 2' being a Council Improvement proposal ( existing structure) under the reform program.

Accordingly, I invite IPART as the appointed expert panel to review councils submission that is has the scale and capacity as well as the financial sustainability to meet and continue to comply with the criteria assessment.

Council has in fact been on its own Fit for the Future journey since the implementation of the integrated planning and reporting framework. As a 'Group 1' Council, the framework was used to consult deeply with the community and to have a detailed analysis of its financial situation and longevity undertakings.

That body of work and further community consultation resulted in Council successfully obtaining a special rate variation to correct areas of deficiency in its treasury and asset management and to lay the foundation for continued and robust sustainability.

This proposal and supporting documentation fully describes the journey to date and the future initiatives so that Council can be fit for purpose and able to provide



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services to the Parkes Shire Community at or above agreed service levels.

I commend Council's improvement proposal to you and the expert panel for detailed analysis.

I am available at any time to answer questions or provide further information in reference to Councils submission or its supporting documents.

Yours faithfully



Kent Boyd  
**GENERAL MANAGER**

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