

## Fit for the Future Timeline

Date	7 April 2015	15 April 2015	16 April 2015	16 April 2015	17 April 2015	17 April 2015	12 May 2015	12 May 2015	12 May 2015
	Release FFTF page on the GHSC website  Get finalised flyer to Specialty Press for printing and database of addresses	April Council Meeting to provide an update on engagement strategy	Present to the indoor staff information on FFTF at Council wrap ups SP & DS	Present to outdoor staff information on FFTF – by <u>Poster and email and payslip attach</u>	Mail out to ratepayers the information flyer on the FFTF	Broadscale media releases and social media information campaign  Prepare press releases for Community Newsletters	FFTF Meeting – check community feedback and add names and addresses to database	Compile invitation list of community groups and individuals for community meetings – banner ads in papers inviting community	Send all Community Newsletter half page ads to the relevant addresses ready for publication

Date	19 May 2015	20 May 2015	21 May 2015	21 May 2015	21 May 2015	21 May 2015	21 May 2015	22 May 2015
	FFTF Meeting – check community feedback and add names and addresses to database	May Council Meeting to adopt draft of FFTF and Improvement Action Plan	Update website with draft documents and invite feedback through survey link and other channels	Put FFTF banner on Facebook page and start conversation	Send to all Customer Service Offices hard copies of the community and staff surveys & links to documents	Send out A3 and A4 posters to general stores and other town notice boards encouraging feedback	Email invitations to Community Groups and others letting them know documents are released and meeting dates	Broadscale media releases and social media campaign to advise that draft documents are now available and open for feedback

Date	25 May 2015	26 May 2015	26 May 2015	26 May 2015	26 May 2015	27 May 2015	28 May 2015	28 May 2015	2 June 2015
	Place suggestion boxes in staff workplaces for anonymous comment	Present the documents to the indoor staff at a workshop and invite feedback  SP – Culcairn DS - Holbrook	Present the documents to the Holbrook library, FDC, RNW, Compacts at presentation and invite feedback  DS	Present the documents to the outdoor staff at Jindera Depot - facilitated workshop and invite feedback  SP & GB	FFTF Meeting – check community feedback and add names and addresses to database	Present the documents to the outdoor staff at Culcairn Depot - facilitated workshop and invite feedback SP & GB	Present the documents to the outdoor staff at Holbrook Depot - facilitated workshop and invite feedback SP & GB	Send out All Staff email with staff survey link	FFTF Meeting – check community and staff feedback and add names and addresses to database

Date	2 June 2015	3 June 2015	4 June 2015	8 June 2015	10 June 2015	11 June 2015	24 June 2015	30 June 2015	30 June
	Mullengandra Community Meeting – facilitated workshop and feedback	Burrumbuttock Community Meeting – facilitated workshop and feedback	Culcairn Community Meeting – facilitated workshop and feedback	Send out reminders to staff to complete survey  Send out another email to community addresses reminding about survey	Consultation period closes  Collect Staff Suggestion Boxes	All consultation feedback data processing commences for input into final report	June Council Meeting to adopt final submission for FFTF and Improvement Action Plan	Submission of FFTF documents  Finalise database of contributors to contact with feedback, thank you and copy of final submission	Compile report on community and staff feedback and post on website  Post final FFTF copy on website for community also send to database

# Community Engagement

## Snapshot and Results





# Community Engagement Snapshot



**4,403**  
community  
information  
fliers posted



**311** emails  
sent inviting  
residents to  
participate,  
complete the  
survey and/  
or attend a  
community  
workshop



**3** community  
workshops held

**attendance at  
workshops**

**15** at Mullengandra

**33** at Burrumbuttock

**35** at Culcairn



**3** media  
releases



**9** posts to  
Council's  
facebook page



**8** letters  
received



**337**  
community  
surveys  
submitted



**426**  
web page hits



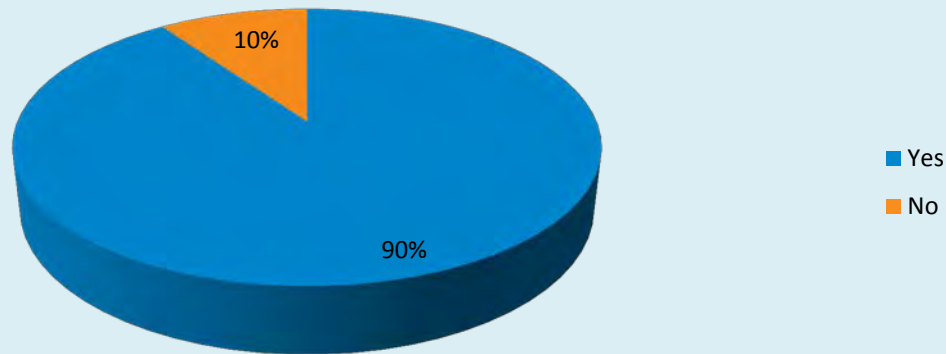
**59**  
staff  
surveys  
submitted



**16** staff  
suggestions

## What did the community say?

**Do you support Greater Hume Shire Council's current position to retain existing boundaries and remain a rural based shire?**



Respondents (337) - Yes (295) – No (32) - Skipped question (10)

### Comments:

- *Rural and small towns are our type and focus - we need to retain this type whenever possible. Council is approachable and listens whereas bigger councils don't have time to listen*
- *It is important to our town*
- *Most definitely*
- *If we were combined with Albury, we would be ignored / neglected as the most northern town. Combining with Lockhart would be preferable, as they are rural also.*
- *Need to remain as we now are, if not we will be forgotten and left out*
- *Jindera would be better in Albury*
- *Big enough now*
- *I want rural representatives and a Council that understands rural needs and problems. I don't want the shire to be swallowed up in a big Council intent on looking after mostly the city of Albury.*
- *Only a few years ago we went through the process of being forced to close Culcairn Shire and join the new GHSC. There were large 'community consultation' which were a waste of time. No one listened. "They" – the State Government did what it planned to do. Is this a repeat?*
- *A far better balance is provided with consideration given to the needs of country communities which will otherwise probably be ignored.*

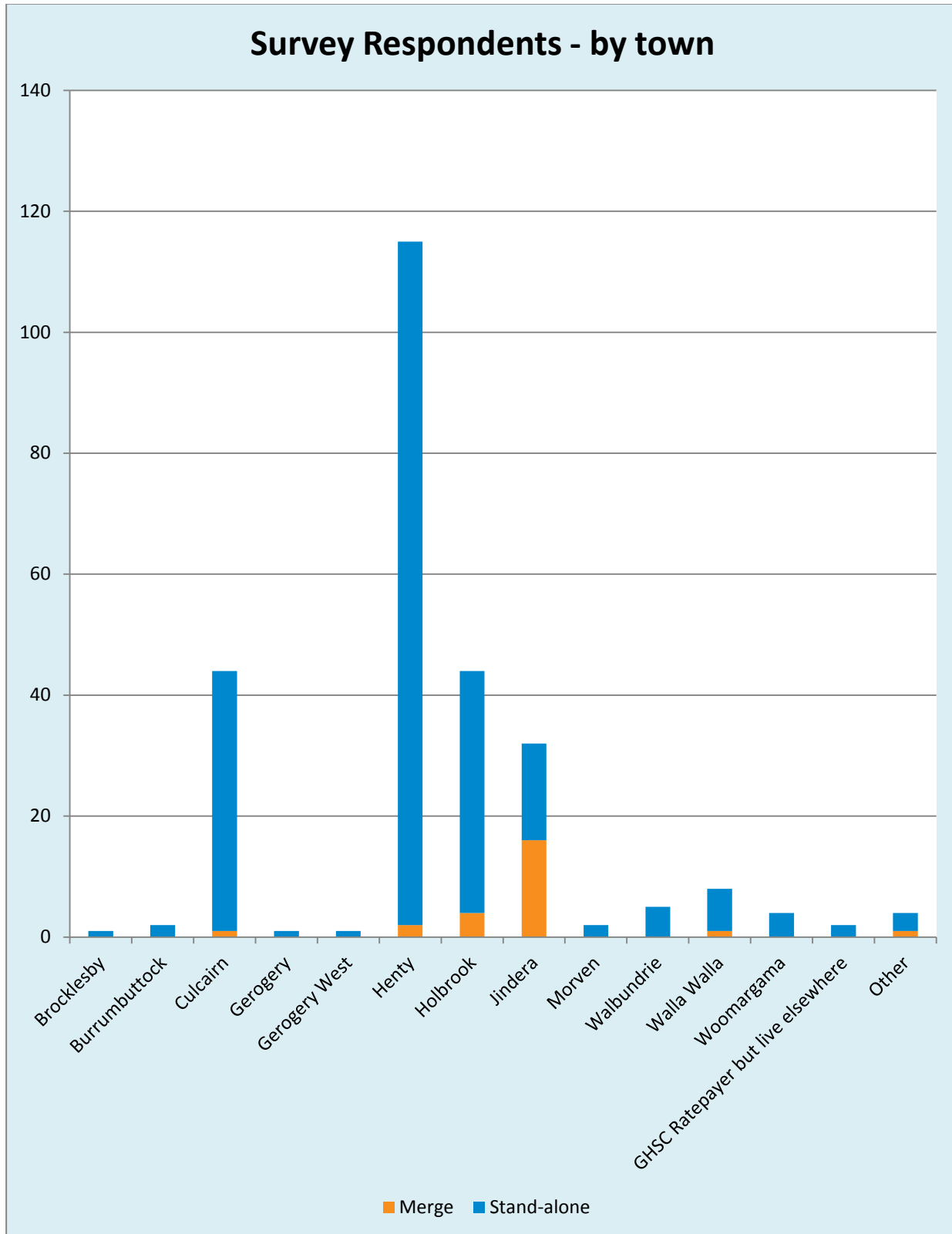
- *Rural representation is essential 12 Its too big now 13 Existing boundaries are too big now*
- *Our town would be a lost cause and forgotten.*
- *We would be a lost cause*
- *Please leave Greater Hume as they are. They have always looked after us well. 17 Rural people require rural representation. Regional super councils are completely unacceptable as the expectations of the minority would be ignored.*
- *If absorbed into large shire we will forego necessary facilities 19 Feel living in a rural Based Council area would benefit all concerned and needs much better. 20 I do not want to live in Albury Shire - need to remain in the Rural Shire*
- *It's too big now.*
- *I live in a rural community and want the shire to remain as a rural shire.*
- *It is too big as a shire now*
- *The shire is so big now 25 Greater Hume Shire is a wonderful rural based shire, extending boundaries will not be in our best interest.*
- *We believe it not possible for a city based council to adequately serve the interests or rural and regional centres.*
- *Going Bigger will not guarantee our Local needs will be attended to*
- *Going Bigger will not serve our communities any better 29 Greater Hume has been doing a great job*
- *Greater Hume serves our communities well. Extending boundaries will not serve our interests.*
- *Shire soo big now*
- *Rural people understand rural problems*
- *Definitely*
- *- In my opinion if we had to join Albury or lose part of our shire we would not get a fair go. as the money will be spent elsewhere.*
- *With or without Jindera*
- *It is so very important to remain as we are*
- *As long as the shire remains financially viable. Smaller structure allows greater local knowledge and a more personal service provider*

- *Rural people understand rural problems 39 Its so large NOW 40 It is important to have a rural Council for a rural area and not so large that things start to slip through the cracks*
- *Council has already been drawn into a merger 11 years ago. Another merge would only be detrimental to what Council has achieved in the last 11 years.*
- *I would be concerned that rural issues may take a back seat if we were associated with Albury City Council*
- *I attended the Culcairn meeting and I was very impressed by council's submission. Steve Pinnuck and his staff spent many hours ensuring that the Improvement Action Plan showed a positive outlook for our current shire going forward. As a 4th generation farmer in the area I am keen to remain in a rural based shires so that our concerns and issues will be addressed.*
- *Culcairn has already merged to be part of the Greater Hume Shire which has interest and responsibility towards rural communities and residents. Combining with larger populated towns/shires will cause us to lose our identity and services. At present our shire appears to be run by a leadership group that cares about our local issues. A merger with a larger centre, that will focus primarily on their issues, will leave us quite underrepresented. Our shire already covers a significant area.*
- *we have already gone through an amalgamation and the shire is just getting back on its feet and tackling the task of improving its infrastructure .*
- *Greater Hume Shire covers a unique part of southern NSW. To have this area consumed by larger city councils would place certainly place the smaller regional towns within Greater Hume Shire at a great disadvantage compared to the larger cities of Albury and Wagga.*
- *We want local government TO BE LOCAL. The last amalgamation was very stressful and is only now (10years on ) recovering financially. We are a rural based shire and don't have synergies with Albury City council other than their greater financial strength: our voice wouldn't be heard and our services would be cut substantially. Our voices wouldn't be listened to.*
- *State government wants less councils so councils should be negotiating with neighbouring councils*
- *Unless Council can vastly improve its management of rural (sealed and unsealed) and regional roads as well as waste management (NIL removal of services such as Brocklesby Landfill without replacing it with a transfer station), it will be unable to demonstrate it can survive. Council has failed dismally in procuring roads funding over the period it has been amalgamated, has lost sight of its core/basic services to ratepayers and instead has concentrated on throwing money at infrastructure in towns such as Jindera, which should by now be large enough to attract private investment for building offices, consultation rooms etc.*
- *Council formed only 11 years ago (Culcairn/Holbrook/Hume). Just getting on its feet now.*
- *We merged before and that was a disaster*
- *I believe that for all stakeholders of GHSC the current boundaries must be retained. To be amalgamated with Albury city our services would become secondary*

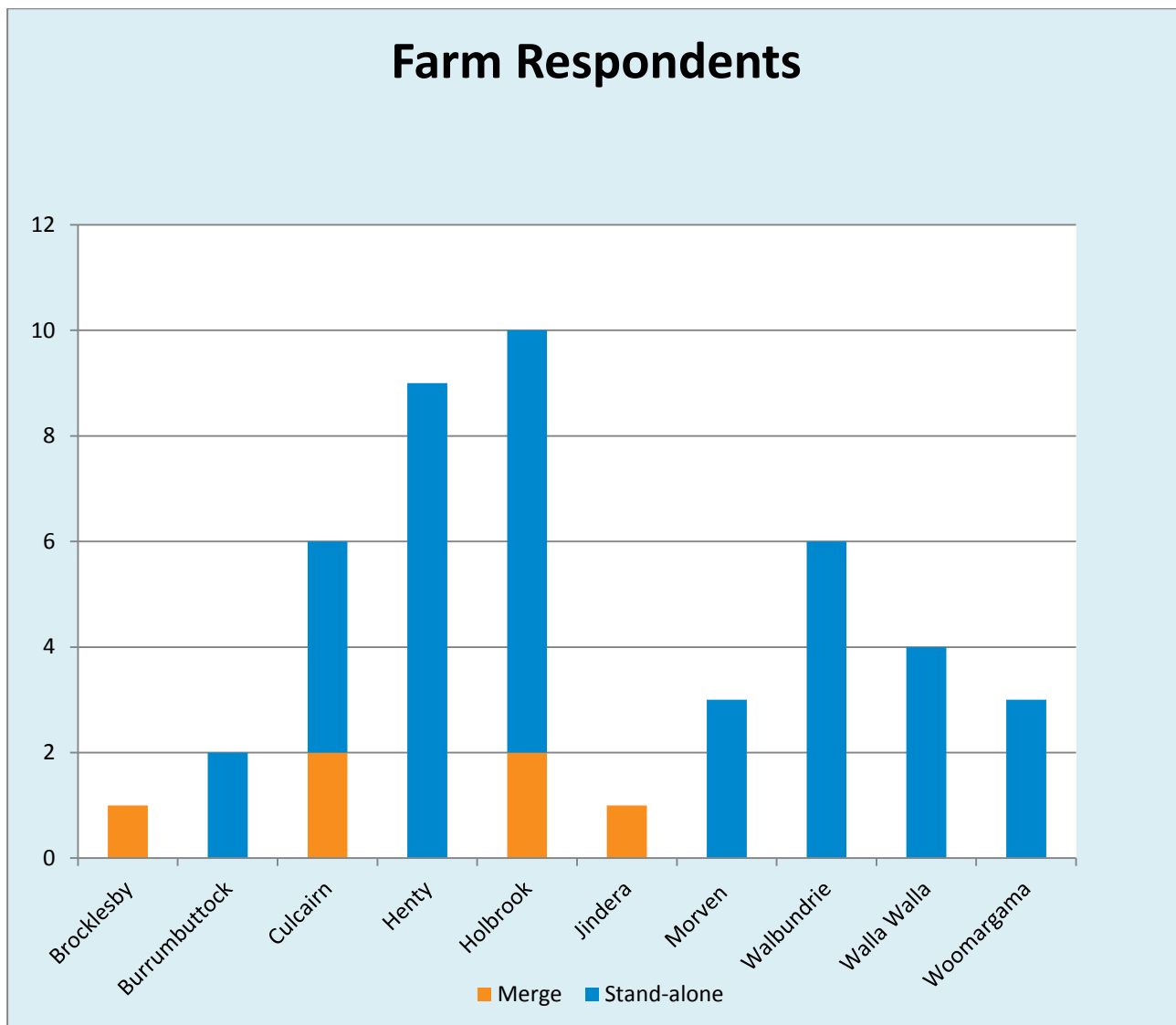
- *If GHSC becomes part of a city-based shire then funding is very likely to be lost to the rural areas and smaller towns. It also becomes difficult to actually know your council reps in a bigger population. We need to retain our rural identity.*
- *Should have some change to ensure longevity and financial capability.*
- *Despite what others say*
- *I attended the meeting in Mullengandra and appreciate the councils rigorous efforts to have the members of this shire fully understand the - Fit for the Future details and the actions they are proceeding with.*
- *I support Alternate Option 1. This is due to Greater Hume Shire Council's continued increases for Jindera ratepayers so much so that within 3 years Jindera ratepayers rates will be more than neighbouring Albury City rates for a similarly values property. Therefore I would rather pay rates to and received services from AlburyCity.*
- *Especially being a rural rate payer, I see no advantage-more disadvantage, to being swallowed up by Albury - lose Rural voice.*
- *I believe that, should Greater Hume Shire demonstrate viability, the need to maintain its strong rural focus and also the linkages between our rural communities makes integration with the large city of Albury illogical. If it were to occur, such a step would be to the detriment of our towns and villages.*
- *A rural based council will be more Empathetic to its rural based rate payers*
- *As a resident of Walla Walla, I feel our area is overlooked. I don't believe that attention our area receives from council can get any worse, and in the interests of amalgamation to reduce costs of bureaucracy and to improve efficiencies I support merging with the Albury council. I feel that it is a sad way to see things go, however when council funding is constantly taken to improve other areas and inadequate services to this area are available, I can't go any other way.*
- *We need the rural base shire to protect the interests and future needs of our communities so as not to lose the focus or funding for our area.*
- *I believe we would get lost/forgotten if we became part of Albury City*
- *it is clear as day to me that if the amalgamation goes ahead then we'll become the poor overlooked country cousin. Albury is a city unlike many of the towns in the shire, and I don't believe that the local councillors there can truly understand the issues and challenges of smaller towns, or will really care. Everything will become Albury-centric, just like NSW politics is Sydney-centric, which most Albury people would agree.*
- *I believe our community would be better presented by the current council - if we were to go to a larger council I am sure our community would miss out!*
- *Need greater expertise and resources which amalgamation with Albury City should provide*
- *Yes would be much better to remain a rural based shire as we would be forgotten if in a city shire.*
- *I support Council remaining a rural based shire but I am not confident about it retaining existing boundaries.*

- *Please do not merge with Albury. I own two titles on Hawthorn rd & will sell & move further into Hume shire if Hawthorn rd got taken up by Albury*
- *ABSOLUTELY!! The best Rural shire I lived in*
- *Alternate option 1*
- *Alternative option 1*
- *rate rises over the next 3 years to high. Every year ~ 10% means to have a rate rise of 30% (\$450) after 3 years for the future*
- *The Shire made a big mistake 11 years ago in fighting Albury. We lost huge chunks to Albury and Corowa anyway and got lumbered with Culcairn and Holbrook to our detriment and we are the poorer for it. The rest of the original Hume Shire should merge with Albury.*
- *The council needs to show that they can provide equivalent services as other councils with better economy of scales.*
- *Our rates are higher than Albury where the majority of the shire's residents work, shop and play sport. Makes more sense to combine with the major player.*
- *I associate more with Albury and feel alienated by the attitude and actions of some Councillors*
- *I don't believe that a merger with Albury will have any benefit for rural ratepayers*
- *I feel a greater association with Albury and have become disillusioned and lost confidence in Council to manage the Shire as one Shire without favouring one town against another.*
- *The needs of the communities within the shire are best served by Greater Hume remaining as is. Albury City has never demonstrated an interest or any support for rural areas. The needs of Greater Hume's smaller communities are very different to those in Albury. Greater Hume has the capacity and expertise to provide the vital services essential for smaller towns to survive and thrive.*

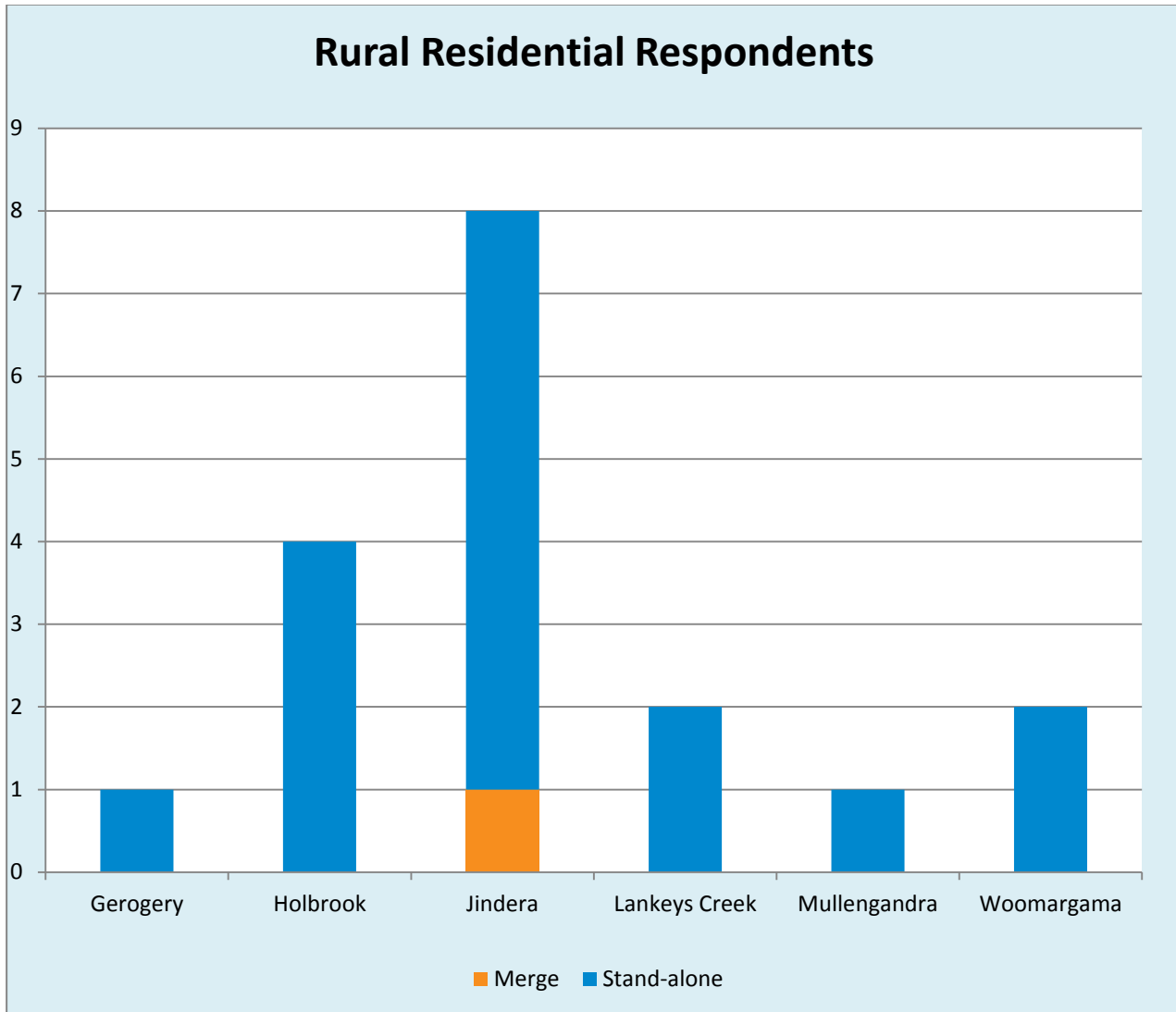




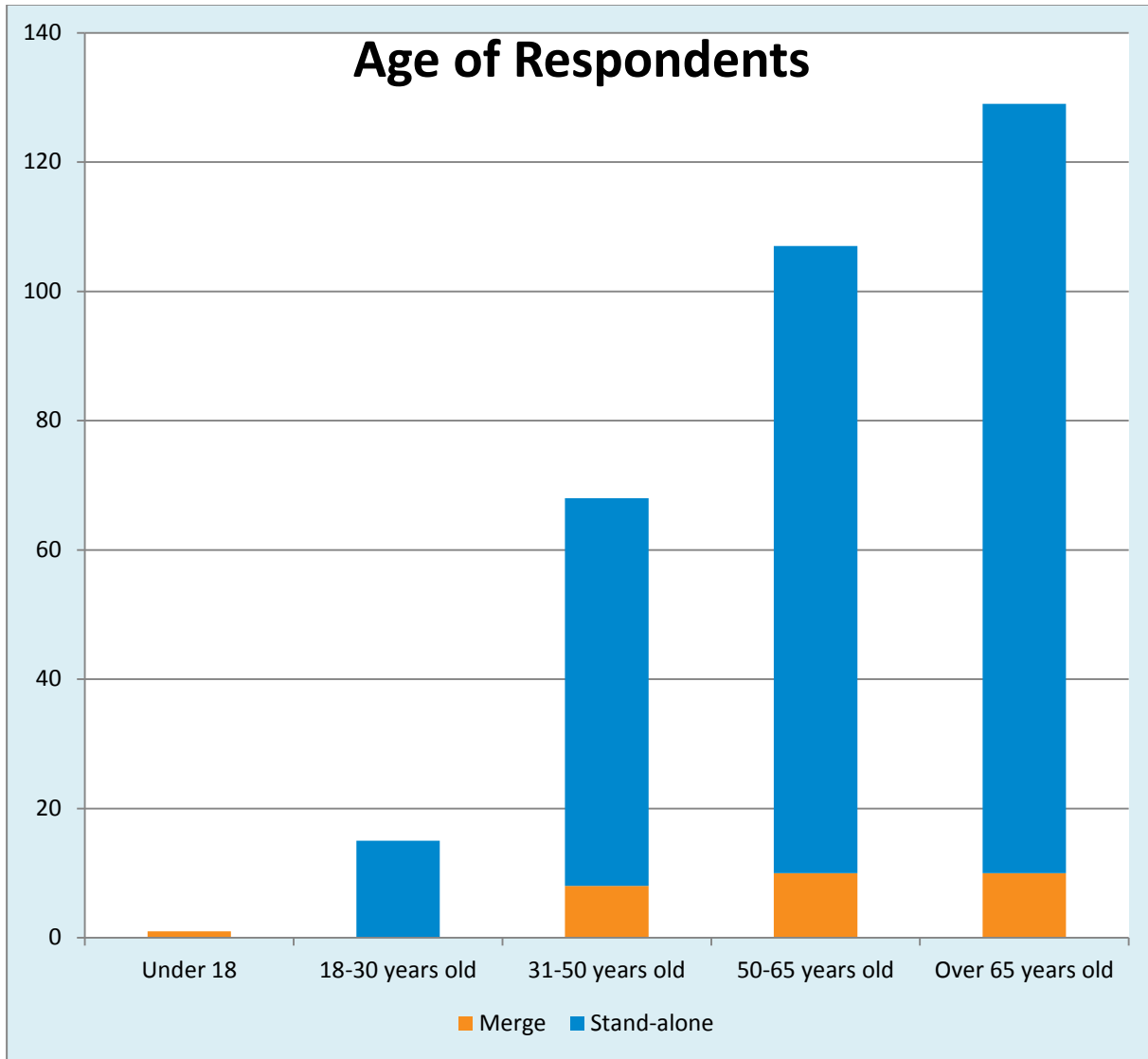
*Respondents (269) - Yes (240) – No (25) - Skipped question (4)*



*Respondents (46) – Stand-alone (39) – Merge (6) - Skipped question (1)*



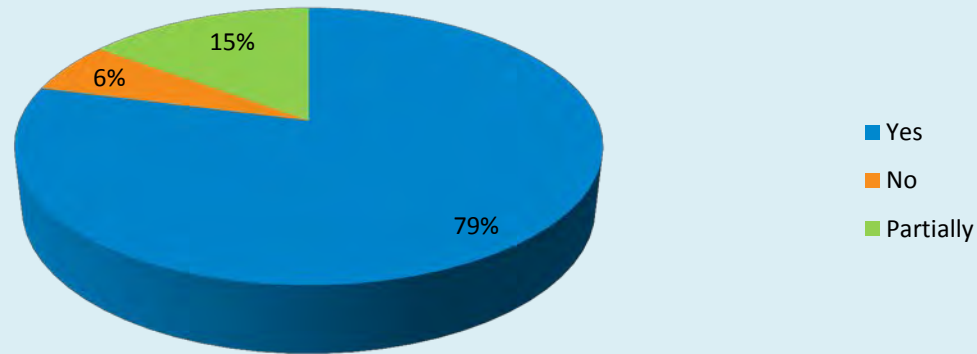
*Respondents (21) – Stand-alone (17) – No (1) - Skipped question (3)*



*Respondents (337) – Stand-alone (291) – Merge (29) - Skipped question (17)*



## Do you agree with the Submission and evidence put forward that Greater Hume Shire Council is Fit for the Future?



Respondents (337) – Yes (170) – Partially (32) – No (13) - Skipped question (122)

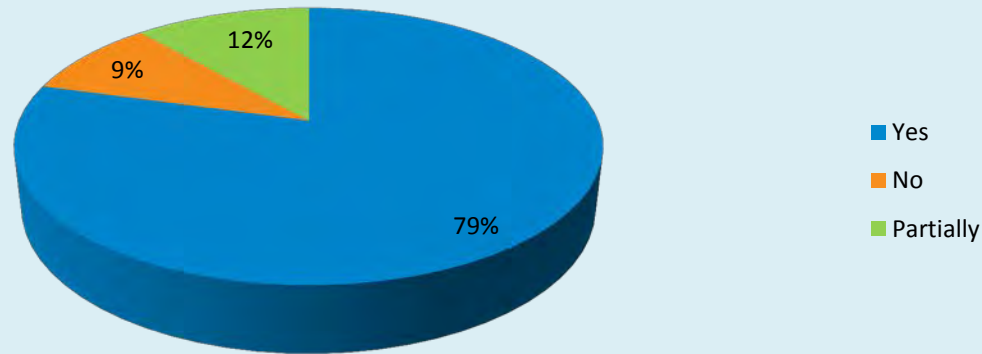
### Comments:

- Council has backed up all decisions & options with explanations. Positive submission.
- They need to remain disciplined and focused on efficiencies and continual improvements across all areas.
- I appreciate the hard work put into this Submission by our Councillors
- Albury has enough land mass and should not be so greedy as to try and claim more - Leave us alone
- Greater Hume has looked after us - Why would we want to change. Please leave us as we are!!!
- Ongoing strategies and processes with internal reviews will ensure benchmarks are met and quality services will continue for all within our Greater Hume Shire.
- We need to retain and gain quality services as we are already handicapped being on outer reaches of present shire. We are forgotten.
- We want to remain as we are - with local councillors who understand the needs of the people. The staff is made up of Local people living in the Shire - which helps the smaller towns survive.
- Governments should be looking at Decentralization and spread the population. Rural shires better understand the needs of rural people and can work more closely with the people and achieve more economical results.
- Local Shire understands the needs of local rate payers
- Of course Local People Local knowledge will achieve wonderful results also Local employment

- *Greater Hume understands the needs as our small communities go in to the future.*
- *This is not a good idea for those of us that live 40km out of Albury*
- *We are all GST payers and I guess the Government pays grants to Council for some projects and I accept rate rises as a fact of life*
- *Don't annexe Jindera our major growth area close to Albury. Splitting up the shire is a backward step and for us that live on the Eastern side of GHSC , Lockhart is twice as far away as Albury! Keep it as LOCAL COUNCILS, no amalgamation.*
- *Don't agree that councils submission makes us safe from merger*
- *We can make it on our own*
- *Well done Manager of GHSC Steve Pinnuck for your leadership in bringing the shire from a disaster to what it is today.*
- *Greater Hume needs to stay as is*
- *Very well put together*
- *Negotiations should have been conducted with all neighbouring councils to develop a more rounded submission.*
- *Greater Hume shire Council have shown initiative and common sense in how successfully they managed a very difficult transition in 2004, the last thing the communities and council members who "give so much time and effort to their community" need is another boundary change.*
- *This is due to Greater Hume Shire Council's continued increases for Jindera ratepayers so much so that within 3 years Jindera ratepayers rates will be more than neighbouring Albury City rates for a similarly values property.*
- *Not totally happy with the 7% rates increase for the next 3 years but if this means we stand alone then so be it. Anything that is needed so we don't have to join with Albury council.*
- *I have only partly read the submission so can only fairly, partially agree. However-the evidence submitted lends to maintaining status quo until further reviews in 2019/20*
- *I cannot comment on the validity of much of the information provided. To fully understand, one needs to have a good understanding of the way in which local government operates.*
- *Not convinced that outcomes will be as projected*
- *It is pretty long and involved I have no really disagreement*

- *GHSC is clearly struggling to balance meeting its financial responsibilities such as roads maintenance, against the need to remain solvent. Perhaps a merger would be less a fear of losing our identity as a rural shire, and more turning Albury city council into our rural shire? That would give us access to the rates income and assets of a nearby city, whilst in reality our rural lifestyle won't change. Consider this proposition a reverse takeover of Albury!*
- *I'm not sure council will be able to fulfil its long term plan, particularly if any of the shire is shifted to Albury. Some areas are growing but it is a huge shire with a large infrastructure to maintain. many people are already wingy about increased rates etc, but better service doesn't come without a cost.*
- *After 10 years I would have felt there should have been greater progress in organising the shire as one.*
- *Too many motherhood statements.*
- *Better resources and infrastructure are required in the areas of larger population growth, and less resources on smaller population areas. That is better use of ratepayers resources*
- *The shire is not up to scratch and never will be when its answer is to increase rates to cover spending rather than operating within its budget.*
- *I believe option 1, Jindera and Woomargama being absorbed by Albury, is the one that would benefit me rather than remaining as part of Greater Hume*
- *It makes sense to disband the council and go elsewhere.*
- *Council has gathered creditable evidence to show that they are fit for the future. Council has also thoroughly explored many options and I believe they have made the right decision to stand alone. This is the best option for us ratepayers.*

## Do you agree that Greater Hume Shire Council's Improvement Action Plan will ensure Council is sustainable in the longer term?



Respondents (337) – Yes (165) – Partially (24) – No (19) - Skipped question (129)

### Comments:

- *Provided they don't lose focus, all staff at all levels need to remain focused and on track. need to continually review all actions, and efficiencies .*
- *I definitely want to remain with Hume Shire (name)*
- *Depending on the policies of future governments, these changes to local government may be changed AGAIN; so no LONG term government rulings can be garated*
- *Cutting overheads in the office area is surely possible. Having staff using Fridays and Mondays as RDOs is frustrating for the public and inefficient for Council. "Minding" an office, without the knowledge to go with the job is no help to anyone. The lady who conducted the 3 meetings was unnecessary (+ an expense?) as she said nothing, but ask "any more questions?" Council has intelligent, efficient and committed councillors and staff, not to mention community members, so why couldn't a local have run the meeting?*
- *Greater Hume Shire Council was created when Culcairn and Holbrook shires were amalgamated in 2003/2004 and as a participating member of the rural based Riverina Joint Organisation I am positive the Council will be able to meet all expectations in the long term and be sustainable.*
- *Only if we remain a rural shire with rural representatives*
- *We have to help the smaller towns*
- *Provided the boundaries remain in current situation*
- *Provided money is spent wisely with good advice. Very disappointed with the money wasted planting inappropriate trees and those grasses around palm trees in nature strips - better than nothing but colourless*



- *Hope so*
- *it would be a hard road as it is a rural council with many roads and a limited income stream*
- *As long as Farmers remain viable as we pay most of the Rates then GHSC has a chance. However they must realise this and not kill the Goose that lays the Golden egg. (RATE HIKES)*
- *Provided council keeps on reviewing its functions. Some functions that were needed in the extremely difficult formation years can be streamlined or may be culled out. Common sense efficiency of funding and function to be maintenance*
- *I feel the state government will think it is weak and inward looking and dismiss it and go with their own ideas.*
- *It will need to be continually assessed*
- *We have insufficient income to properly maintain sustainability, let alone any much needed growth and investment in our shire. It seems only a matter of time before the next merger is proposed and we may not get the choice to avoid a merger at that point.*
- *Council are giving it a red hot crack but it will be a wait and see issue; at the end of the day the State Government will simply pass a decree and we will all have to go with it*
- *After reading the submission I felt that the shire had been taking its time to get to where it is now and the Fit for Future action has invigorated the momentum to get it fixed.*
- *The rate payer has to pay it*
- *The shire is too big and the ratepayer base too small for the area. The farmers cannot be taxed out of existence to satisfy the needs of the towns within the shire & there is too much duplication with so many small towns all wanting their share of the ever decreasing pie.*
- *Yes, we have definitive proof. We survived the 2004 amalgamation forced onto us by the then State Government, and we have continued to prove that we are "fit for the future" that is once more being forced upon us by this State Government.*
- *Provided it has the support and acknowledgement of the State Government that local government areas with small rate bases and large road networks need more support from external funding sources to remain vibrant. Merging shire areas do not solve this essential problem of low rate bases and large geographically areas – it just moves it to a larger council to be someone else's problem - usually to the detriment of local communities who end up with less voice in the issues that affect them.*

## Additional comments from the Community about the Submission – via survey

- *Hope our detailed positive submission gets us over the line, and State Gov. take serious notice of the impacts in FAGs reductions.*
- *It has been well thought out*
- *It was obvious at the FFF meetings, the members of staff of G.H.S have worked very hard and contributed well to the FFF program. More junior staffers? would create more jobs and take less money while training. Would a GHS Council garbage/recycling truck and local driver be less costly?*
- *I believe that GHSC is not perfect - but is doing a good job - a very good job. It is small enough so we can meet and talk to Councillors at Church, football, in the street or Club - to be heard and maybe even our opinions are discussed or even acted on. If we join the Albury City, all that disappears. we will have very little say in the whole decision making process.*
- *Erosion on edges of shire*
- *Albury has NO LOVE or respect for small towns*
- *Henty would be ignored and forgotten if amalgamated with a big council.*
- *We are a separate identity and need to stay that way (Hands Off)*
- *We would be neglected*
- *Jobs for local people.*
- *I feel that if Hume Shire joined with Albury our area would find it very hard to get any services.*
- *I would like the GHSC to stay. You are doing a good job. Thank you.*
- *We have already had one merger from Culcairn Council to Greater Hume Shire Council. Very happy with the services to a small village and we would be lost in a larger merger.*
- *It is vital we remain a rural shire rather than become lost in Albury*
- *Would like to stay Rural Shire Council*
- *If edges of the Greater Hume Shire are eroded by partially merging with Albury it has the potential to affect long term sustainability and an alliance with our northern neighbours would be of considerable assistance and favourably accepted.*
- *Bigger is NOT Better*
- *Alliance with Lockhart shire would be preferable to being absorbed with Albury Shire*
- *We hope our Council fights the amalgamations*

- *Rural people understand rural problems*
- *Helps to employ more people local*
- *Join Lockhart not Albury*
- *We need to stay the same.*
- *Shire too big - Albury hates small towns - we would be forgotten*
- *If we come under the Albury area will be too big to really understand the needs and meet those needs of the rural population out here*
- *We have good local councillors with well presented submission*
- *We'd be better if we had the boundaries we had before 2004*
- *Need to stay as is - to remain financially viable*
- *GHSC as is needs more time to bed down and further gain more efficiencies*
- *Government should decentralize and help Australia*
- *DONT DO IT*
- *I am concerned about the loss of representation if we amalgamate with Albury - our Council is doing a good job.*
- *One of the key buying problems is water from Albury City. There is a large bore near Walla. for the papermill. I understand this was established to service the mill's water needs and compensation for the waste water going into the Murray River. - can we access the bore water at Walla. (I think it is managed by State Water).*
- *If we are taken over by Albury City Council with no RIDINGS we are indeed abandoned.*
- *A very detailed honest and accurate response to each of the criteria. This demonstrates a council committed to supporting and advocating for the residents in the Shire Well done*
- *We are seeing too many organisations joined together as one and this does not work to many things are left unattended even if it is a priority, as there are toooooo many rungs in the ladder to climb before an answer can be given, Keep it simple as stay small.*
- *Strongly agree with the Council's position of remaining independent rejecting any suggestion of enforced amalgamation. Council have reviewed their financial position and acted upon their findings to retain long term their Council as it currently stands. This was done on behalf of all residents at that time for the benefit of all residents.*

- *A word to the NSW Govt. They are state based , and we are LOCALLY based. I'd the state Govt to ease off putting EXTRA responsibilities on our councils that eat up our revenues and add to administration costs. Local govt spends too much on consultants and not enough on the Ground. I think the GHSC has done a good job on its submission.*
- *It is important that we remain a rural shire and meet rural needs City shires don't understand rural issues*
- *Councils needs a plan b, no additional plans shown*
- *The alternative 1 (losing Jindera/Bungowannah area to Albury would place the Council in a permanently worse position. Gaining finances from State Gov. in the short term would be extremely short sighted. The result would be as bad as it has proven to be in losing Howlong to Corowa Shire.*
- *I feel that we become part of a bigger shire - e.g. Albury - we will lose out identity and become just a bit tacked on with the result that our views and opinions will count for very little or nothing. It is important that we retain our position as a rural shire.*
- *Away*
- *I have had a discussion with Mayor Heather Wilton and agree with council decision to stay as Greater Hume Shire*
- *I encourage GHSC as much as possible to encourage more industry into the shire. Point 6 Agriculture is struggling cost price squeeze. In last 20 years grain production costs have risen 350% and grain prices 30%. Beef has just now reached real term value that was evident 1960s to the producer with cost 12 x higher this is why agricultural participants find rate rises difficult*
- *As one of the last merged councils we need to stay as is to prove our worth*
- *To assist you compiling the Fit for the Future Community Survey, and in particular question 3, the following option headings have been listed below. (For more detail on the options please refer to pages 26 to 32 of the Fit for the Future submission) Preferred Option - Status Quo seeking an extension of the review period to 2020 and embracing the Joint Organisation concept. Alternative Option 1 - Southernmost part of Greater Hume to be subsumed into Albury City. This option means Greater Hume remains a stand-alone council but with Jindera and Bungowannah being subsumed into Albury. Alternative option 2 - Assuming Scenario 1 (Alternative option 1) eventuates seek a merger of the remainder of Great Hume with Lockhart. Alternative option 3 - Total merger with Albury. Alternative option 4 - Assuming Scenario 1 (Alternative option 1) eventuates and the Jindera and Bungowannah are subsumed into Albury City Council it may be appropriate for Council to consider a total break-up of the Shire*
- *in summer council could use road plant in 2 shifts per day. to properly utilise valuable equipment*
- *To continue to include the community in your deliberations for the future.*
- *If we were viable it would be today not in 5 years that would convince state not to change.*
- *Single minded, should negotiate.*
- *It is disappointing that rates will rise by over 7% in each of the following 3 years.*



- *Congratulations on your efforts.*
- *considering location, and size of GHS, I think the council performs very well indeed.*
- *I support a merger with Albury City.*
- *It is obvious council cannot live within its means, evidenced by the recent outrageous rate hike. As a taxpayer who pays councils operating costs, I am sure residents would benefit significantly from amalgamation.*
- *I am grateful for the many hours that have been spent on this submission and very happy with their submission.*
- *One main office would result in better communication and greater efficiency*
- *It seems that the submission is more focused on meeting financial benchmarks. It would be good to provide more detail about how quality of service will be improved.*
- *I will be attending the meeting tomorrow evening at Burrumbuttock.*
- *It is the right thing for us. An amalgamation would mean our rural communities would miss out and suffer for lack of support into the future.*
- *Our expectation as ratepayers is that you will fight hard and fight well to preserve our independence and avoid us getting swallowed up by the behemoth that is Albury council.*
- *If we are involved with "work for the dole" would it be worth mentioning in submission. There could be some savings with this project. In submission it could be mentioned about the Development Committees in most towns that assist with decision making and voluntary projects etc*
- *Jindera urban area has been neglected for too long. Why should Urana St continue to be neglected, especially Adams to Dight. When will lighting & kerb & guttering especially, Jindera St & Pioneer Dr be brought up to today's standards.*
- *The sooner Jindera moves to Albury the better*
- *All the recent works at Jindera have been half completed & redone. A joke!!*
- *We strongly support Alternative Option 1. Jindera is a suburb of Albury. We use all of Albury's services – water and rubbish collection comes from there. We use Albury's library since the mobile service provided here is an absolute joke. All of the roads we use are in Albury's boundaries or within the boundaries of Alternative Option 1. We don't like subsidising, through the special rate rises, other parts of the shire when we feel like we belong with Albury anyway. And even though we live in a residential area within Jindera we have no kerbing or guttering or street sweeping. We don't care what you do with the rest of the Shire, but it is currently not sustainable and will not be in the future. It is quicker for us to drive to Shire offices in Albury or Corowa than our own Shire's offices in Holbrook or Culcairn. We definitely do not identify with Greater Hume and would much prefer to be with Albury since we use all of their services already.*

- *I believe that Greater Hume Shire should stay as a Rural Council. I don't believe if it were to merge with Albury City, that they would be able to understand the needs of the towns and villages in a rural community, and provide the services needed. With some more time, I believe that Greater Hume Shire can be a long term sustainable council.*
- *Rate rises for Jindera in the last years haven't been fair. Maybe it's better for Jindera to split up from Greater Hume shire and go to Albury*
- *Where is Annexure 12 ? This survey is inadequate.*
- *Please listen to ALL the ratepayers and do what the majority of them want not what the councillors want or think.*
- *We are a strong and resilient rural community but I am completely fed up with State Government Ministers playing God with our lives, our communities, our livelihoods & our way of life.*
- *Its submission is just as much smoke and mirrors as its submission for the SRV.*

***142 Residents of the 337 respondents provided their contact details so they could be considered for further community consultation.***

### **Additional comments from the Community about the Submission – via mail or email**

Eight pieces of correspondence received about the Fit for the Future submission either by post or email, a summary of which is outlined below:

- *Support for stand-alone proposal (4)*
- *While supporting the proposal to stand-alone, communication has always been a weakness with Council. Change is always a challenge and even more so when it appears forced. It should be remembered that email is a valuable tool but there are some who are not computer literate or, like myself, have extremely poor internet service. Meetings have a valued place, but not at the local shopping centre during the day*
- *Wards support communication, which I understand is not a part of adjoining Councils and I believe this information would be a valuable support to your submission*
- *With the decline of the rural population ie farmers enlarging their holdings by purchasing neighbouring properties I believe greater effort should be made to increase the more urban population and greater effort to determine how to do so*
- *While more occupations are now home based a major failure to attract these people is extremely poor Internet services in the shire. Council should see this as a priority if population is to grow*
- *I believe Council is perceived to be reactive, rather than proactive, and lacking initiative*
- *Under an amalgamation Council would probably close at least one office, why do we have 2 anyway? There must be significant duplication of costs*

- *The use of consultants, are they necessary in all cases?*
- *Lack of communication within by Council. Hoping Fit for the Future improves the processes*
- *Request to conduct a community consultation session in the Eastern end of the shire – we feel left out*
- *We need to maintain a country identity so residents are able to retain the dignity everyone deserves*
- *Letter from Lockhart Shire Council requesting an explanation for the mentioning of Lockhart in the Fit for the Future draft submission without their involvement*
- *Due to the Special Rating Variation rate rises for Jindera residents, what are the advantages for those residents continuing to be a part of Greater Hume Shire Council?*