

# Bingara Show Society

## SUBMISSION FROM BINGARA SHOW SOCIETY GWYDIR SHIRE COUNCIL

### **Bingara Show Society vehemently opposes any amalgamation of Gwydir Shire Council.**

Gwydir Shire Council gives amazing support to our organisation and in fact Bingara would not be able to run an annual show without the support of Council. This support is given in preparation of grounds, maintenance of buildings, donations of inspection time and computer support and resources to name a few.

In relation to a proposed merger with ANY council we would like to have the following points considered:

- 1) ***Although the State Government guarantees no job losses after amalgamation for three years, the experience in small towns like Barraba, Manilla, Nundle and Mungindi is that within 18 months most administration jobs are just exported to the town at the centre of the shire.***
- 2) ***If the council were to amalgamate the towns of Bingara and Warialda would lose significant population and income and this would have a flow on effect to schools, businesses etc. – there is a very real possibility that these regional centres could become ghost towns.***
- 3) ***Regional NSW needs to remain strong – an amalgamation would weaken the main centres in our shire.***
- 4) There are 152 councils in NSW and less than 15% are likely to meet the Fit for the Future Criteria currently.
- 5) Gwydir Shire meets 4 of the 7 benchmarks and can demonstrate significant improvement in the other 3 over the next few years.
- 6) Cost prohibitive – false economy. Previous amalgamation proved expensive.
- 7) While Gwydir has never had a special rate variation in the past, most councils in the north west have received special rate variations in the last 5 years including Moree, Tenterfield, Liverpool Plains, Narrabri, Walgett, Armidale and Tamworth.

Yours faithfully

[Redacted Signature]

Robyn Phillips

Secretary

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President: Russell Smythe: Ph: [Redacted]

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