

Author name: G. Kelly

Date of submission: Friday, July 31, 2015

Submission: Submission to IPART in relation to "Fit for Future" on behalf of Murray Shire

Committee for Echuca Moama (C4EM) is a member based, self funded independent and apolitical organization that brings together a broad cross- section of Echuca Moama's private, public and not for profit organisations across all sectors. C4EM's key role is to advocate for the issues and initiatives that will make Echuca Moama a better place to live, work and play. C4EM is concerned that any proposed amalgamation which potentially shifts the seat of power from Moama/Mathoura could have a real impact on the cross border relationship the community of Echuca Moama have worked so strongly at forging. C4EM has clearly stated objectives in relation to the future of Echuca Moama and has produced a Master Plan of 19 key projects with the majority having a considerable cross border element. We understand this document formed part of the Murray Shire 'Fit for Future' submission.

The potential for these agreed outcomes to be diluted within an amalgamated local government landscape is, in our view, very real.

More specifically a considerable level of work has been undertaken to ensure that these projects meet the needs of Echuca Moama residents collectively including:

- a) Continued progress towards formally recognising the community through uniforming naming and signage as Echuca Moama.
- b) Ongoing development of interlinked cycle paths and footpaths that cross and recross the river.
- c) Further development of the punt project, which is a project specific to the two sides of the river and will be of benefit to the whole community.
- d) Continued consistent advocacy for the building of the new bridge and its benefits for the entire Echuca Moama community

Beyond these short-term issues, many of the longer term, aspirational projects, such as the marina, the sporting precinct and furthering the agri-food industries are Echuca Moama issues, and are best advocated by Councils in lock-step with each other. A Deniliquin based shire will have a diluted and perhaps conflicted approach to seeing this area promoted at the expense of Deniliquin based industry.

Geoff Kelly

Chair

