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Submission: The Cooranbong Business and Community Alliance Inc (CBCA) is a community-focussed volunteer organisation that has served the local community by acting as a medium for the expression of its concerns and aspirations, and by advocating for progressive improvements to infrastructure and facilities in the town. The CBCA wishes to express its full support for the position taken by Lake Macquarie City Council in rejecting the proposals (1) to amalgamate Lake Macquarie City with Newcastle City and (2) to separate the south-western area of the city, including Cooranbong, from the City of Lake Macquarie and place it under the jurisdiction of a large central coast council. The multiple reasons for rejecting the two proposals have been adequately expressed in the documents lodged by Lake Macquarie Council and in the many other submissions, but we reiterate and amplify some of them here.

Cooranbong is fundamentally part of Lake Macquarie, both historically and geographically. It was the first part of the present-day City of Lake Macquarie to be settled by Europeans (1826). Cooranbong lies in the centre of the catchment of Dora Creek, which is the largest tributary catchment of Lake Macquarie. The boundary of the lake's catchment provides an appropriate natural boundary for the entire City of Lake Macquarie. The management of the environment of this large coastal lake would be compromised by splitting off such a large area of its catchment and it would be more sensible from an ecological perspective to add to Lake Macquarie the short section of its southernmost shoreline that is currently outside the City of Lake Macquarie. The current boundaries of Wyong Shire include the entirety of the catchments of Wyong River, Ourimbah Creek and three other coastal lakes, which is sound from an environmental management viewpoint. To plan to split an important catchment with a political boundary harks back to the kinds of poor decisions made in the nineteenth century.

We believe that a change of boundaries in the south-west of Lake Macquarie would be disruptive of lake Macquarie City Council's short- and medium-term plans for infrastructure development in the area of Cooranbong and nearby Morisset and be a set-back to the community and district of south-west Lake Macquarie. It is clear that the overwhelming majority of people in Cooranbong and the surrounding district want their town and its environs to remain in the City of Lake Macquarie and the CBCA believes that government should respect the will of the people.

Dr H J Fisher
Honorary Secretary
CBCA