

Hub Action Group Incorporated

Molong NSW 2866

Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal of
New South Wales
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Dear Sirs

FIT FOR THE FUTURE - SUBMISSION

We support Cabonne Council's proposal.

The Hub Action Group Inc is a community group formed in 2002 in response to a proposal by Orange City Council and Cabonne Council to develop a major landfill on 500 acres of prime agricultural land in a productive mixed farming area in the Cabonne LGA. This proposal was highly controversial and ultimately resulted in Cabonne Council accepting its community's concerns that the site was not appropriate for a landfill, as confirmed by Preston CJ's landmark judgment in *Hub Action Group Incorporated v The Minister for Planning [2008] NSW LEC 116*.

However, immediately after the Chief Judge's decision, Orange City Council resolved to proceed alone and lodged their own application under the former Part 3A to develop a facility to dump Orange City Council's waste at the same site originally proposed. Orange City Council did so despite overwhelming Cabonne community opposition and repeated objections by Cabonne Council. Orange City Council blatantly disregarded the concerns of those residents beyond the city boundaries and the concerns of its neighbouring Council. They had alternatives within their own LGA but refused to properly and objectively consider them.

This issue ran for over 10 years and our experience highlighted the risks to the Cabonne community of a proposed forced merger with Orange City Council. Orange City Council staff and Councillors focus narrowly on the interests of their urban ratepayers. They have no understanding of the values or needs of a rural community.

There is no evidence before us to say that the Cabonne community's interests will be protected if Orange City Council and Cabonne Council were forced to merge. As a merger would inevitably result in the majority of Councillors and Council management being located within the City of Orange, their focus will be in Orange.

We ask that IPART take these concerns into account in their assessment of Cabonne Council's proposal.

Yours faithfully



Garth Hogg
Chairman
The Hub Action Group Inc.



22 July 2015