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Submission: PLEASE SUBSTITUTE THIS SUBMISSION FOR THE ONE I SENT PREVIOUSLY W15/3805

I am a resident of Wyong Shire.

It has been a refreshing and rewarding change of council management under the current Mayor, Doug Eaton.

Now there is planned development; a demonstrated concern for the environment; our water supply has finally been secured; our financial position balanced; our Councillors, especially our Mayor and General Manager have invited comment from residents; our water and waste management, including sewerage treatment are exemplary [previously I was a resident in Lake Macquarie]. Our roads and gutters need attention but are being addressed; our cemeteries and parks are cared for; tourists are encouraged and catered for; pre-schoolers have play grounds and the aged have amenities for social activities. There are always improvements to be made but our current Council is not complacent.

My concern about an amalgamation with Gosford Council is that Wyong will be merged into Gosford and I believe Wyong has the better Council structure and administration.

If Gosford Council was filtered into Wyong administration I could accept the merger.

This will never happen though as Gosford has the identity as the administrative centre of the Central Coast. It receives preferential treatment from State Govt funding.

Compare the money spent on the Central Coast Highway and Pacific Highway in Gosford and Wyong Shires [The Baird Govt is finally tabling some money for the Pac Hgw through Wyong]; compare the funding of government schools in the 2 shires; in the 2 hospitals Gosford and Wyong, which hospital gets the specialty units, Gosford;

Despite the "poor cousin" identity. Wyong Shire is my preferred place to live. It has the strength to Stand Alone. Thank you to the Mayor and staff.