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Submission: Oberon is richly endowed with National Parks. These provide a natural attraction for tourists wishing to experience the joy and exhilaration of the wilderness and a safe habitat for our native animals. They are an easy drive from Sydney and also on the town's doorstep so provide an opportunity for those businesses catering for the needs of tourists. The vast Kanangra-Boyd National Park & Blue Mountains National Park fringe the eastern and southern boundaries of the Council area. As well as bringing many people to the area they also provide local employment, as the town boasts a National Park's office. In addition Oberon is often the starting place for visits to nearby attractions such as Evans Crown, Abercrombie Caves and Wombeyan Caves. Here again Oberon has its own unique appeal for those seeking a purely natural experience

Oberon Business & Tourist Association strongly opposes any moves towards amalgamation and has an official policy endorsing this. Bathurst has in the past had little interest in Oberon apart from the economic benefit that Oberon supplies to Bathurst businesses. With amalgamation it is a foregone conclusion that Oberon's main street shops would rapidly decline.

Oberon has suffered the loss of several high profile organisations which would better serve the community and state if still situated in Oberon. The NSW Forestry Office, Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust and the Chifley Zone Headquarters of the Rural Fire Service are three that come readily to mind. The Forestry office employed four foresters, a large office staff and many outdoor staff. The office was situated in the heart of the pine plantations close to the timber complex. The Caves Trust has moved further from Jenolan, Abercrombie and Wombeyan caves; hardly a good economic move. The loss of these people is a brain drain on Oberon. If the State Govt. was serious about decentralisation and maintaining the economic viability of rural areas these organisations would not have been permitted to move. If the town is to grow such organisations must remain.

When the Forestry Office was vacated the Oberon Council established a Tourist Information and Information Technology Centre in the building. This award winning centre, as well as catering for the needs of tourists also provides classes in basic IT technology for the community. It is also the site of the University of the Third Age, which has recently been established in Oberon

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