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Date of submission: Tuesday, July 28, 2015

Submission: I do not support the improvement submission proposal by Great Lakes Council for the following reasons:

1. No consideration or analysis was given to creating a larger more efficient organisation by the amalgamation of Great Lakes and Greater Taree Councils.
2. No attempt was given to modelling the costs and benefits of the creation of a region based Joint Operating organisation where by resources were pooled or shared across the region (maybe including Gloucester Council area. This area is the region already served by MidCoast Water 40,000 rate payers. Incorporating the 3 council and MidCoast into one organisation should be considered
3. It does not appear that Great Lakes has really explored all options of becoming more efficient ie reducing operating costs by outsourcing works and services, innovation, additional skills, flatter management organisation etc
4. It does not appear that Council has fully explored additional sources of non rate revenue (apart from Property Development) Being a growing holiday destination the area presents many more opportunities for generating revenue from leisure and tourism activities such as operating modern holiday parks
5. The financial viability of Great Lakes alone is dependent upon a SRV to create an operating surplus by 2020/21. This is not considered to be a fair or reasonable impost on existing rate payers given the current socio economic structure of the region. It is also assumes that IPART approves the SRV
6. Great Lakes and other regional councils need to be more strategic in their views and how they communicate with all stakeholders. The degree of discussion of the amalgamation options was poor given that all Councils knew well in advance that local government reform was on the agenda. Council needed to be prompted to publicize the fact that the community could make a submission to IPART on the improvement
7. The asset management and ICT improvements proposed should have been implemented at least 5 years ago
8. The submission has not set out how the Council needs the NSW Government or Commonwealth Govt to assist with infrastructure upgrading and financing (especially in remote lowly populated areas