

F. A. & M. E. Bollinger

29 July 2015

Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal of New South Wales
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Dear Sirs

FIT FOR THE FUTURE - SUBMISSION REGARDING CABONNE COUNCIL

As resident rural ratepayers at this location for over fifty years, now Cabonne Council area we wish to lodge our strongest objection to any form of Amalgamation between Cabonne and Orange City or any other local Council.

The domino effect created by the loss of Cabonne Council Headquarters and depot in Molong would destroy our viability flowing through the entire community, Bank, Schools, medical services, supermarket, service station, real estate and all other commercial businesses killing the current prosperous viability of a Council area Very Fit For The Future into a Cemetery without any hope of a Future.

The loss of services to rural residents is a major concern. As an example our property is 20 kilometres from Molong with our only access traversing 2.5k through heavily timbered country where it is a regular occurrence to be cut off by fallen trees over the road after storms or heavy wind.

A phone call to the local Council depot has a crew out usually within an hour to clear the road.

As Frank is a diabetic in his eighties it is imperative, for us to be able to continue to reside in our own home, to have the reassurance that access to medical emergency services are always readily available.

In the event of an amalgamation with Orange we could be cut off for a day or more before a council crew became available to come and clear a tree from a low priority, low traffic road. We have in the past had two occasions when an Ambulance was needed.

This proposed Council Amalgamation is not only Financially Costly and Risky but could well be Costly and Risky for physical Human survival in rural areas.

We strongly urge IPART to make these issues clear to the Government in your Report commissioned to make recommendations regarding Council's to be Fit or Unfit for the Future.

There is no way of calculating in dollar terms the loss of community sustainability and well being particularly in semi isolated rural areas where our population is aging.

I have quoted our situation as an example however we are not alone, there are many aging couples happily living where they belong, on the land where their menfolk need to stay, because many have not ever known any other way of life.



On behalf of Frank and Marj Bollinger