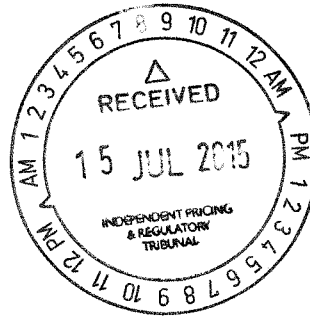


Mr John Connors
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

13 July 2015



Mr Keith Dawson
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Please address all correspondence to PO Box 75 Batlow NSW 2730

Attn Dr Peter Boxall
Chairman Fit for the Future
Independent Pricing & Regulatory Tribunal
PO Box K35
HAYMARKET Post Shop NSW 1240

Dear Dr Boxall

We note that you are receiving public comments in regard to Fit for the Future by 31 July 2015 and therefore we would like to provide you with a copy of correspondence (attached) in regard to the Tumut Shire Council and Batlow.

As stated in our attached letter to the Minister, Local Government NSW we indicated that we are undertaking a Petition to have Batlow removed from the Tumut Shire to the Tumbarumba Shire. In undertaking this Petition it is disturbing the number of community members that are completely dissatisfied with the Tumut Shire Council and its relation with Batlow. We are happy to provide a copy of the Petition to the IPART if appropriate.

It is also disturbing that the Tumut Shire Council decided not to consult the community in regard to their proposal for the Fit for the Future process and submission to the IPART.

Batlow has suffered for many years under the control of the Tumut Shire Council, they are reactive rather than proactive, extremely difficult to consult with and lack communication ability to participate with the community and their issues. Their style of management is clearly set apart from other Councils and is more like a dictatorship run by the General Manager and not by our elected representatives through Councillors. Tumbarumba Shire is a good example of management style.

Their business operations such as the Snowy Works and Services need investigation and the way funds (and Grants) are expended when too often private contractors can do the work for much less, hence saving public moneys and obtaining best value for money. We note a recent announcement by the NSW Minister for Local Government advised that Councils need to be more Community focused.

Yours sincerely
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

John Connors
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Keith Dawson

Attachment: Letter to Minister Local Government NSW

Mr Keith Dawson
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

1 May 2015

Mr John Connors
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Please address all correspondence to: [REDACTED]

To
Minister for Local Government NSW
The Honourable Paul Lawrence Toole MP
Level 17 NE
52 Martin Place, SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Honourable Mr Paul Toole

Subject - Batlow to be removed from the Tumut Shire Council (TSC) to the Tumbarumba Shire Council by a change to the Local Government Electoral Boundaries

We the undersigned write to you as concerned citizens of Batlow NSW 2730 in regard to the decline of this wonderful country town located within the Tumut Shire Council (TSC) .

For many years Batlow residents have suffered under the control of the TSC, as such Batlow citizens believe that the best option for Batlow in moving forward is to be located under the Tumbarumba Shire Council. The TSC management resist any attempt of Batlow people seeking to have works undertaken as they are reactive and in no way proactive to suggestions. Most instances works carried out by the Tumut Shire Council are undertaken by Snowy Works and Services under the TSC at exorbitant costs, hence not allowing Batlow to move forward. In some instances Batlow community groups obtained quotes from private contractors for works to be carried out, only to have the work carried out by the Snowy Works and Services at an excessive cost much higher than outside quotes.

The closure of the Mountain Maid Cannery, demise of the Forestry NSW and loss of many workers and recently the closure of the Newsagent and Butcher Shops has added to the further demise of the Township. The TSC has shown not interest in working with the Batlow people to secure, industry, small businesses or even new residents to the town.

We strongly urge and request that you undertake a review of the TSC operations including Snowy Works and Services and it's relationship to Batlow. We would request that a change to the Local Government Boundaries be undertaken allowing Batlow to be located under the Tumbarumba Shire Council.

With the TSC having to substantiate its "Fit for the Future" we believe the only way forward for Batlow is to move to the Tumbarumba Shire Council. Batlow people have a good affiliation with the Tumbarumba Shire including through sporting events.

We intend to circulate a Petition, with Batlow residents requesting Batlow be removed from the Tumut Shire Council and become part of the very progressive and supportive Tumbarumba Shire Council who are clearly 'Fit for the Future' with them being progressive and proactive.

We request that you investigate the Tumut Shire Council and the Snowy Works and Services prior to the final decision in regard to the review of all Shires and any possible merger between Tumut Shire Council and Tumbarumba Shire Council.

Please note this letter has been copied to those listed below.

We appreciate your time and look forward to your response and actions.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
John Connors

[REDACTED]
Keith Dawson

C.C Mr Darryl Maguire MP [REDACTED]

Mr Michael McCormack MP [REDACTED]

Mrs Kay Whitehead General Manager Tumbarumba Shire Council [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Editor Tumut and Adelong Times [REDACTED]

Mr Gregory John Aplin MP, Member for Albury, [REDACTED]