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Submission: I have been a resident in the Lake Macquarie area for 15 years.

I have been most satisfied with the services provided by the Lake Macquarie City Council and believe the Council is run in a responsible manner. The Council lives within its financial means, keeps rate rises to a minimum (and seeks advice from residents as to their views on rate rises), and there is no apparent infighting or factional brawling within Council that hampers Council area business.

Our nearest neighboring Council, Newcastle, is beset with financial problems and seems hamstrung in its operation by factional fighting.

I strongly oppose any merger of our Council, especially with Newcastle.