

30 July 2015

IPART

Fit for the Future Expert Panel

The Chair Person

Dear Sir,

On any financial basis, Wyong Shire is "Fit for the Future". The problem is, it is not "Fit for the Present".

The very fact that Wyong Shire Council commissioned "Third Horizon" to conduct a cost benefit analysis on various future options, but will not undertake a cost benefit analysis on their proposed \$250m airport, is a prime example of them not being "Fit for the Present". A cost benefit analysis is the first thing the Federal and State governments undertook into a second Sydney Airport and a Wyong Airport was found to have the worst benefit of all options. A no go. This is why a cost benefit analysis is conducted. To weed out non viable options and save a fortune in wasted capital and resources. Wyong Shire failed this fitness test for the present by wasting \$17m on airport land valued at less than half that, without undertaking a cost benefit analysis and should be condemned for it. A Wyong airport will always fail a cost benefit analysis, which is why one has not been undertaken by Wyong Council. This is but one example of the current Council's lack of fitness for the present.

I believe smaller is better when it comes to accountability. The closer the funds spender is to the funding provider, the better. The closer the management and staff are to the people they work for, the better. The closer the politicians are to the people they represent, the better. So it is with Councils, including the Wyong Shire.

In any carve up or merger, the town of Wyong is finished. The presence of Wyong Shire Council is the key to the continuing viability of the town and this entity will probably be lost to another centre in the event of a Council carve up or merger. While this is a parochial position, it is valid and important.

Wyong Council has shown it is fit to stand alone as a viable Council in the future. We have to look past the crook bunch that lead us at the moment and look to a future when good governance and accountability will return. These people will eventually move on and the Wyong Shire will be able to achieve the success it deserves.

Yours sincerely

Laurie Eyes