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Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal of
New South Wales
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Dear Sirs

FIT FOR THE FUTURE – SUBMISSION SUPPORTING CABONNE COUNCIL'S PROPOSAL

We currently operate a large grazing enterprise between Orange and Molong and have lived and farmed within the Cabonne Council LGA since 1973.

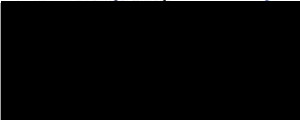
We have valued being part of the many local rural and village communities covered by the Cabonne LGA. We have watched Cabonne Council develop, connecting and supporting these communities including the multitude of small community organisations based within each town. The Councillors and staff are an integral part of our communities. If we have a concern, we know who to call and get action. A merger with Orange will ultimately and inevitably change this relationship.

We understand that Cabonne has structured its budget to ensure its sustainability and to provide services to the whole LGA. As a result, based on current rating structures, we acknowledge that rural ratepayers in Cabonne may pay higher rates than rural ratepayers in Orange. However, we accept this as we understand that a proportion of our rates subsidises the residents and small businesses of our local towns and villages. We need to ensure that these local businesses and services remain available to the Cabonne community.

This understanding comes as a consequence of living in a socially connected community. Cabonne Council underpins that social connection and co-ordinates it throughout the Cabonne LGA. We are particularly concerned about the impact potential social disconnection will have on the wellbeing of our Cabonne residents and the consequential impact on the Cabonne economy. The value of this is beyond financial ratios and any political determination as to what constitutes "scale and capacity". It is meaningful and needs to be maintained. A forced merger with a city council unnecessarily jeopardises our communities.

We urge IPART to support Cabonne Council's proposal to stand alone. Do not play a role in forcing an unnecessary merger with Orange – those who have to live with it on a day to day basis don't want it or need it.

Yours faithfully



Christine McIntosh
Director
McIntosh Pastoral Pty Ltd