



BUSINESS PAPER

**of the
Special Meeting
Held
11 January 2016**

**Our Values: Leadership • Integrity • Progressiveness • Commitment •
Accountability • Adaptability**

The Prayer

We humbly beseech Thee to vouchsafe Thy blessings on this Council.
Direct and prosper our deliberations to the glory and welfare
of the people of this Shire and throughout our country.
Amen

The Council's Charter

A council has the following charter:

- to provide directly or on behalf of other levels of government after due consultation, adequate, equitable and appropriate services and facilities for the community and to ensure that those services and facilities are managed efficiently and effectively
- to exercise community leadership
- to exercise its functions in a manner that is consistent with and actively promotes the principles of cultural diversity
- to promote and to provide and plan for the needs of children
- to properly manage, develop, protect, restore, enhance and conserve the environment of the area for which it is responsible, in a manner that is consistent with and promotes the principles of ecologically sustainable development
- to have regard to the long term and cumulative effects of its decisions
- to bear in mind that it is the custodian and trustee of public assets and to effectively account for and manage the assets for which it is responsible
- to facilitate the involvement of councillors, members of the public, users of facilities and services and council staff in the development, improvement and co-ordination of local government
- to raise funds for local purposes by the fair imposition of rates, charges and fees, by income earned from investments and, when appropriate, by borrowings and grants
- to keep the local community and the State government (and through it, the wider community) informed about its activities
- to ensure that, in the exercise of its regulatory functions, it acts consistently and without bias, particularly where an activity of the council is affected
- to be a responsible employer.

(Section 8(1) Local Government Act, 1993)

File Ref: RS:LA:C70-005

O:\2015-16\General Manager\C70-005 Council Committees General\Business Paper\January 2016\January 2016 Business Papers.doc

6 January 2016

The Mayor & Members
Lockhart Shire Council
65 Green Street
LOCKHART NSW 2656

Dear Councillors

I wish to advise that a Special Council Meeting of Lockhart Shire Council will be held at the Council Chambers, Green Street, Lockhart on **Monday, 11 January 2016** commencing at **5.00pm**.

BUSINESS:

Opening with a Prayer
Apologies
Leave of Absence
Declarations of Pecuniary & Non-Pecuniary Interest
Fit for the Future.

Fit for the Future report is appended, including list of attachments.

Yours faithfully



Rod Shaw
GENERAL MANAGER

Staff Reports

General Manager

1. FIT FOR THE FUTURE UPDATE

(GM/I06-005)

Executive Summary

Update on recent events.

Report

The State Government handed down its proposed mergers for our industry on Friday, 18 December 2015.

It proposes to reduce the number of Councils from 152 to 112. From 43 down to 25 in metropolitan areas and from 109 to 87 in regional areas.

Significantly, Lockhart Council has been proposed to merge with Corowa and Urana Councils. This proposal has been met with disbelief and dismay by all and sundry and a press release, as well as other media coverage, has condemned it as unworkable, not asked for and completely out of left field. Our press release quotes the Mayor vowing to fight it with all the means at our disposal and keep our own identity.

It won't be sufficient defence to simply ridicule the proposal – a viable alternative(s) needs to be formulated and advocated for at this meeting, as well as a community engagement strategy and program of advocacy and promotional material.

The Government is moving quickly to get on with the proposals and as I write, a briefing session via teleconference has been arranged with all affected Councils to take place on 8 January 2016. I expect the teleconference will outline the timeline and specific happenings like a public inquiry, as required by the merger process. I have attached each of the steps in the process for your information. A report of the teleconference will be communicated to this meeting.

Other attachments have been included to enable you to be informed of publications sent out from Government relevant to the issue.

Integrated Planning and Reporting Reference

E4.2 - Plan for the long term sustainability of the shire.

Legislative Policy & Planning Implications

Multiple, depending on decisions made by Council and the State Government.

Budget & Financial Aspects

Unknown, but possibly substantial again depending on decisions made by Council and the State Government.

Attachments

1. Maps – Proposed Regional and Rural Council Mergers, and Sydney Region Council Mergers.
2. Media Release – Lockhart Shire Dismay at Merger Proposal.
3. Summary – Corowa, Lockhart, Urana Shire Councils Proposed Merger Summary.
4. Office of Local Government – Council Decision Making During Merger Proposal Periods.
5. Process for Creating New Councils.
6. Forced Amalgamations Flowchart from LGNSW.
7. Progress Report – Stronger Councils, Stronger Communities.
8. Local Government Reform – Merger Impacts and Analysis.
9. Letter from Minister Toole 6-Jan-16.
10. Merger Proposal – Corowa, Lockhart and Urana.

Recommendation: For Council's determination.

Notes: