

Insert Your
Address

Insert Date

(Write individual letters to all Ministers)

Andrew Gee MP
Member for Orange
Byng Street
Orange NSW 2800

Dear Andrew

RE: AMALGAMATION OF COUNCILS.

Firstly, thank you for the great work you do as our elected representative in the state government and in our local area.

We recently attended the packed meeting in Molong regarding Council Amalgamation - a meeting that was sometimes emotion charged, sometimes defiant. From this meeting there have emerged several concepts that have compelled us to write to you.

1. **Efficiency Gain:** From all investigations and dollar figures revealed to us, there is negligible cost/efficiency savings to be gained by amalgamating two (already) efficient independent councils – Orange and Cabonne.
2. **Incentives:** The money offered by the NSW government would therefore see negligible improvement in the work of our local governments – a great waste.
3. **Voter Representation:** There would be a serious reduction in our (Cabonne) representation – our vote per capita. It would go from an approximate representation of 1:1000 to 1:4000.
4. **Rate Hikes:** For our shire (Cabonne) there would be an expected hefty impact in the rise of property rates. This was clearly seen in the comparison of domestic rate charges in the two council electorates.
5. **Questioning IPart skills:** Regarding the decision-making powers of IPart – we have been assured that the panel will consist of academic expert economists. However, our question (seriously asked) is: what experience do these people have of rural life? Cabonne shire is not a city-based shire. The social and business structures are a complete contrast to those of city life – there are no cities in this shire.
6. **Communities of interest:** We see no common ground in this area between Orange and Cabonne and dread the idea of having an amalgamation forced onto us by a body that does not comprehend this delicate and specific environment.

To summarise Andrew, we are seeking your strongest and unfailing support to represent a rather small but passionate community so that the power of the state government does not walk over the will of the people who have elected it. Cabonne Council is already 'Fit for the Future' and has our full support and therefore should remain a 'stand-alone' council.

Yours sincerely,

[Insert your address]

(Write Individual Letters to All Members & FAX, POST or EMAIL)

The Hon Paul Toole MP
Minister for Local Government
Level 17 NE
52 Martin Place, SYDNEY NSW 2000
Email: office@toole.minister.nsw.gov.au
Fax: 02 93395552

The Hon Andrew Gee MP
123 Byng Street ORANGE NSW 2800
Email: orange@parliament.nsw.gov.au
Fax: 02 63613922

Dear Sirs

Proposal to amalgamate Cabonne Council and Orange City Council

I am writing to let you know how strongly I object to this proposal. **[or something along these lines in your own words]**

[Then let them know in your own words:

· *why you think this will not work e.g. because each community is so fundamentally different and have very different values and objectives – give some examples of how being in a small rural community is different to Orange and why you actually need to understand how small rural communities operate to make decisions affecting them*

· *what the impact will be on you and your local community e.g. inability to access representation when you need it, loss of any power to influence decisions, how increases in rates will affect you and others, loss of jobs, impacts on businesses, services, and how the resulting loss of community will impact on you etc.]*

· *that it is an unnecessary waste of our money and unnecessarily risks our future]*

You cannot let this happen to us. **[or something along these lines in your own words]**

Yours sincerely

.....
[Sign and print your name]

Dated: