

## **INQUIRY INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

**Organisation:** Goulburn Mulwaree Council

**Date received:** 8/07/2015

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## *Office of the Mayor*

8 July 2015

The Director Upper House Committees  
Parliament House Sydney

By Email: [upsc6@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:upsc6@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Committee Members

### **Subject: Inquiry into Local Government Reform**

Thank you for the opportunity of making a submission into your inquiry into Local Government in NSW in particular the Reform process. The Goulburn Mulwaree Council wishes to be heard in support of the submission.

The Goulburn Mulwaree Council has been a strong supporter of the Local Government Reform Process that has been facilitated by the Government. In particular we were confident the Fit for the Future proposal that all Councils have been asked to respond to by 30 June 2015 needs to be proactively endorsed by the Local Government industry.

Goulburn Mulwaree Council makes it clear to the State Government that it believes that reforms of Local Government in NSW are essential if we are to remain relevant and provide services to the standard expected by communities from a modern day Local Government unit. We will proactively participate in any reforms to Local Government in this area that the State Government believe they be appropriate.

This Council believes this is a once in a generation opportunity to reform Local Government in NSW. It is important that the State Government takes a strong leadership issue on this matter to ensure that our communities get the right service delivery from Local Government. Existing Local Government boundaries were formed when horse and carts were the only means of transport. The only alteration that has occurred since those days has been amalgamations of part of or full Councils and not addressed real community of interest with modern day transport and technology infrastructure.

Local Government amalgamation if managed professionally, has considerable benefits to the communities we serve. It is no longer a case of every town and region needs its own Mayor and General Manager. The focus needs to be on service delivery and access through quality customer service regimes to ensure that the rate payers obtain responses to their needs.

The Fit for the Future original proposals set out by the State Government led by the Premier, are excellent. Let's not lose the impetus to reform this vital sector. The NSW community deserve it and it's totally appropriate that Councils focus on external customer service rather than themselves.

Yours faithfully

Cr Geoff Kettle  
**Mayor Goulburn Mulwaree Council**