

I wish to make a comment on Upper Hunter Shire Council's Fit For the Future proposal.

In the SWOT Analysis P10; Branch Libraries have been included as a Weakness due to a duplication of services. This is untrue, branch libraries are a convenience for small town residents and as such represent a strength to the council as they increase the amenity and attraction of small towns and assist in their economic growth.

To infer that regional residents should travel the already admitted "long distances within the shire" to Scone Library HQ is narrow minded and a retrograde assertion.

The decades spent by previous communities trying to enhance their regional facilities and economic growth must be seen as an asset and a strength. To assert otherwise is insulting their hard work and implies insidious intent.

For that same reason; swimming pools, sports grounds, parks, playgrounds, community halls all represent a duplication of service but in their role of providing amenity for the individual communities, they represent strength not weakness.

If all that regional services can be described as, is a weakness (because of economic encumbrance), then we are slowly but surely lowering our civilised standards of living in favour of minimalist, one size fits all hegemony.

I request this dot point be removed from the SWOT table.