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Submission: Over its' existence Oberon has been exceptionally well managed financially. TCorp rates it FSR Sound with a Negative Outlook.. Recent rate adjustments, along with greater utilisation of debt(previously none) and other increased revenues will turn this Outlook around over the next few years. Active JO activities and efficiencies are considerable .In the Group 10 councils Oberon rates well ahead is stronger in the fundamentals of income, employment, administrative efficiencies,debt burden and more). It also rates better than neighbouring Bathurst - a nominated merger possibility. Recent industrial(state significance), residential (one 250+ block dev alone) and lifestyle block developments (over 100 in progress) will see significant future population surge, notwithstanding the absentee/part time population of tree changers from Sydney. Our potential is significant and the Central West will continue to expand.

Oberon must be one of the best serviced towns of its size in NSW. The Council has been financially integral to the facilities – providing money and in kind assistance to the new aged care facility(council initially purchased the land to facilitate), the resurgent Rugby League grounds(Council funded), the covered tennis centre, the covered pool, the award winning Visitor information Centre, the award winning Waste to Art Comp, the CTC, Youth Council, Friends of Oberon Library, The Heritage and Steam Fair,and the new LEP which has fostered a wealth of developments. These are in addition to the services the Council provides directly. There are many more examples.

Infrastructure issue are noted by TCorp p15 as 60%+ roads. Other non road infrastructure is significantly covered by our positive reserves. Road infrastructure remains a weakness of every council and probably less so Oberon. We are positive in addressing this issue, completing RMS works, improving our efficiencies, gaining significant grants and possessing several State roads.

The community has a solidarity in the nature of volunteering and fund raising . The funds raised belie the population size. Individual misfortune galvanizes this community in a truly admirable manner.

An absentee Council simply would not provide the existing levels of service. The community would be advised to complete the 100 km round trip so as to be “absentee participants “. Current media comment dismisses this community as unimportant. No ward system would provide the funding and accessibility current. . Councillors and officers are integral every day obvious members of this community. It is almost a victim of its own success as it represents significant reserves and a distance issue that would simply see it ignored. It is a smaller community council that is financially sound and provides its people with an excellent level of service. If FSR is “ a local government will be financially sustainable over the long term when it is able to generate sufficient funds to provide the levels of service and infrastructure agreed with its community.” Future Directions p11- then Oberon achieves this almost as a n exemplar. This community would not flourish as an outpost. Small is sustainable and healthy.