



KAREN McNAMARA MP

Federal Member for Dobell



30 July 2015

Dr Peter Boxall
Chair
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
PO Box K35
Haymarket Post Shop NSW 1240

Dear Dr Boxall,

As the Federal Member for Dobell, I feel it is important to provide an opinion in regards to the Fit For the Future Proposal concerning the amalgamation of some local government council areas. My electorate of Dobell covers most of the Wyong Shire and the northern end of Gosford City Council local government areas.

I have a strong working relationship with both Wyong Shire Council and Gosford City Council, which allows me to fully comprehend and appreciate the vast differences between these two local government areas including their demographics, priorities and economic needs.

I firmly believe that an amalgamation of Wyong Shire Council and Gosford City Council would not be in the best interests for the Central Coast community. The expanse of area covered by these two local government areas can, I believe, not be adequately addressed within one organisation, nor can outcomes and priorities be focused and directly delivered as they should be.

I also note that the merger of Wyong and Gosford Councils was found to be the least beneficial reform option from a financial, social and economic perspective, and it posed the most risk to both Councils due to the uncertainty and associated costs of a merger. In addition, the merger of Wyong Shire Council and Gosford City Council is not supported by the majority of the Shire's community and Council staff.

Please feel free to contact my office should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

Karen McNamara MP
Federal Member for Dobell