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Your submission for this review:

This review is well overdue and should look closely at the affects of Local Government Council amalgamations. In theory the idea of amalgamating councils made sense in that poorly managed and financially strapped councils be improved by creating a master council. In fact what the ratepayers have seen is that large council districts have wasted ratepayer funds building new chambers and redirecting funds to their own area. A good example is the Mid Coast Council which amalgamated a number of smaller local councils to create a new council area. Taree was a financially strapped council that was not operating in a profitable manner and could be described as broke. Their first task was to repurpose the failed Masters warehouse in south Taree at an astronomical cost to the ratepayers. Some staff were kept in satellite offices in the original council buildings, other are empty and just sitting there (Great Lakes Council is an example) Money is not being fairly distributed back to councils such as Gloucester and Forster. A recent decision by Mid Coast Council to dramatically cut hours and also close some of the nine swimming pools in the area. Its decision was made and presented to council without any community consultation with the aim of pushing the plan through council. The disturbing fact is that most of these pools were built with money raised by local communities and clubs and taken over by councils. Krambach is a small town on the Bucketts Way and one pool that council want to close. Gloucester Pool complex services a town of 2,500 people and during the hottest part of the day the council wish to reduce the hours by closing between 10am and 3pm. This is a tourist town and relies on its infrastructure to enhance visitors and local to use the facilities such as the pool. What has been revealed is that the overall manager of the 9 pools in the regions has his age drawn from the money generated by the Gloucester ratepayers. This needs to be explained and fixe.