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Submission: I write in support of the Bombala Council remaining a stand-alone Rural Council. Bigger is not necessarily better, NSW Health being a perfect example of millions of dollars being wasted in a useless exercise.

Our cities are already overpopulated and the cost of providing infrastructure to cope with further expansion is mind boggling. Decentralisation should be encouraged at all costs. We are already losing too many of our younger people to the cities in search of employment. Our Council is a principal employer and many local jobs would be lost if amalgamation is enforced.

There is such a thing as "equity of service". While rural people do not expect to have everything at their doorstep, they do expect to enjoy some of the Government services that more populated centres enjoy. I can only see further deterioration of our essential services if these services are managed from the bigger centre. I have also experienced the amalgamation of Councils in Victoria where the smaller areas have been left with no local representation whatsoever.

Volunteering is an essential part of our Community, with residents working together for the good of our local area. This aspect would be lost if amalgamation took place. Many local services are complimented by volunteer labour accounting for many thousands of dollars of remuneration.

I would suggest the following to sustain our Rural Council:

1. Rate the NSW Forestry Corporation and National Parks. They run a commercial business and although they are also very important employers in our area, they should be rated the same as individuals. Even our Churches pay rates!
2. If Government can afford to pay Councils to amalgamate they should also be able to support Rural Councils by a one off payment of \$11 million to stand alone. This would help enormously in catching up on asset renewal and infrastructure backlog and would not be wasted on IT and organisational systems as will happen if amalgamation is enforced.