

Our Ref: 35/80 (1149744)

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Treicia Shore

23 November 2015

Mr Craig Deasey  
General Manager  
Dungog Shire Council  
PO Box 95  
DUNGOG NSW 2420

Dear Mr Deasey

**Re: Maitland City Council's Submission to IPART's Determination**

At a recent Extraordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday, 16 November 2015 a report was presented providing the basis for Council's response to IPART's determination, for submission to the NSW Government. At this meeting Council resolved that:

1. *Council provide feedback on IPART's assessment of Council's Fit for the Future proposal as resolved on 27 October 2015, noting specifically that:*
  - *The Independent Local Government Review Panel (ILGRP) dealt with the Hunter Region separately to its recommendations for structural change for non-metropolitan councils;*
  - *The ILGRP made no negative comment in relation to Maitland City Council, nor any recommendation that Maitland City Council should merge;*
  - *Maitland City has been drawn into the discussion of mergers as a result of the ILGRP comment that Dungog Shire Council should undertake an updated sustainability assessment and consider the option of merging with Maitland as a part of that assessment was a matter for action by Dungog Shire Council.*
2. *Council reject the IPART assessment of Maitland City Council as 'Not Fit' on the basis of scale and capacity;*
3. *Council nominate Dungog Shire Council as a preferred merger partner in its final submission;*
4. *Should Council nominate Dungog Shire Council as a potential merger partner, this be done on the basis that such a decision provides the best opportunity to represent and protect the interests of the Maitland community, by facilitating the involvement of this Council in the formation and shaping of a new council; and*
5. *Should any merger of Maitland and Dungog councils proceed, the revised merger business case prepared by Morrison Low form the basis of discussion with the NSW Government in relation to rating and the need for additional funding support from the Government in order to achieve financial sustainability for the new council.*

Council will now await the NSW State Government's determination.

Yours sincerely



**David Evans**  
General Manager