

## Merger Aspirations for Dungog Shire Council

Issue	Sec 263(3) Considerations	Potential Cost or Benefit	Suggested Strategy		
			Interim Council (Administrator Appointed)	Transitional Arrangement	Final Arrangement
Wards	(e)(e4)(e5)	Immediate and total loss of representation	N/A	Ward structure in proclamation	Ward structure to ensure some representation from Dungog LGA.
Total Councillors	(e)(e4)(e5)	Capacity for views of the area to be represented	N/A		
Councillor Remuneration	To be considered by NSW Gov't	Significant workload for the new Council in the early years of formation. Current remuneration level too low for the demands.	Induction program developed for new Council Sept 2017. Pre Councillor professional development sessions.	Continuing CPD program including appropriate financial allocation.	Remuneration level based upon skills & experience.
Election of Mayor	(e)(e4)(e5)	Future leadership and effective functioning of the new Council	Administrator appointed by proclamation	Popularly elected or elected by Council	
Staff Numbers	(a)(e1)(e2)(e3)	65 EFT contributing to the local economy and part of social fabric of local community	Maintained levels as required by LG Act		As determined by organisational structure proposed by GM and endorsed by Council 65 FTE to be maintained in Dungog.
Works Depots	(a)(c)(e1)(e2)(e3)	Loss of local staff facilities and local provision of services	N/A	Depot at Dungog to be maintained.	Depot at Dungog to be maintained.
Administration Offices	(a)(c)(e1)(e2)(e3)	Loss of local staff facilities and local provision of services e.g Service NSW	Suggest retention of building with funds expended on building.	Levels of service to be analysed as part of overall review.	Based upon final recommendations of the General Manager to the new Council.

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					With all current services still available to the community. This also includes continuance of school work experience placements.
Rates	(a)	Increases above rate-peg required in the future to fund I/F renewals & backlog	No change rating year will have commenced and rates determined.	Investigate options for gradual harmonisation	Harmonised to reflect levels of service
Regional road network	(a)(e1)(e3)(f)	Significant capital and maintenance backlog, longer term funding increase from Gov't required for Regional road network. Protection of funding allocation for MR101.	Continued advocacy in relation to funding components of the route access strategy. Document needs to be refreshed.	Continued advocacy in relation to funding components of the route access strategy.	State road classification for MR 101 & MR 301 & Limeburners Creek Rd re-classified as regional road
Public Works	(a)(c)(d)(e1)(e2)	DSC works priorities need to be continued.	As per budget and delivery program	As per interim delivery program and asset management plans	As identified in shire-wide CSP and new delivery program
Existing Policies & Plans	(b)(c)(e)(e3)(e5)	Protection of DSC's values, priorities and aspirations needs to be considered moving forward	Continuation of existing policies and plans, particularly land use aspirations and protection of waterways and support to various local bodies. Rural lands strategy needs to be completed.	Undertake the coordination of existing policies and planning documents.	New LEP and single set of policy documents.

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Financial Assistance Grant	(a)(e1)(e2)(e3)	Loss of control as regards distribution particularly roads & bridge component which DSC specifically assigns to the network. Future lower funding post Yr 4.	Continue to maintain FAG funding for the Dungog LGA.	Maintain/Improve FAG funding for Dungog LGA	Maintain/Improve FAG funding for Dungog LGA.
Southern Phone Shareholding	(a)(e1)(e2)(e3)	Loss of control as regards distribution. No other Hunter Council with a shareholding.	Ensure that future dividend distributions are maintained in Dungog LGA.	Ensure that future dividend distributions are maintained in Dungog LGA.	Ensure that future dividend distributions are maintained in Dungog LGA.
Stronger Councils Fund (merger incentive grant)	(a)(e1)(e2)(e3)	Equitable distribution on basis of current LGA boundaries.	Allocated across the new Council area.	Allocated to each LGA to fund backlog/capital works in particular Councils admin building, and to leverage other projects.	
Strategic Alignment	State has advised these yet to be determined	The value of regional strategic and advocacy support provides greater capacity building opportunities for our communities.	Part of Hunter JO		
Volunteers Sec 355 Committees	(b)(e1)	Inclusion of volunteer management committees as regards future decisions in relation the various community & sporting facilities within LGA.	Maintain Sec 355 committees and allocate resources to support them.	Maintain Sec 355 committees and allocate resources to support them.	Maintain Sec 355 committees and allocate resources to support them.

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Health Forum	(e)(e1)(e3)	No advocacy for rural health services. Loss of local health forum will result in the structure reverting to a HNEH committee.	Maintain local Health Forum	Maintain local Health Forum	Maintain local Health Forum
Community Organisations incl Dungog Shire Events Committee	(b)(e1)	Volunteer organisations provide significant value and support for vital local services and events. Loss of vital community effort and goodwill that underpin quality of life, economic opportunity and community inclusion.	Continued financial support for a range of arts and cultural organisations.	Continued financial support for a range of arts and cultural organisations.	Continued financial support for a range of arts and cultural organisations.
Tourism	(b)(d)(e1)(e2)(e3)	Implementation of DSC Tourism Strategy and Destination Management Plan needs to be supported to ensure local ownership.	Implementation of strategy & financial support.	Implementation of strategy & financial support	Continued support of the local strategy & ongoing financial support
Real estate development Melbee Stage 4 (b)	(a)(e1)(e3)(f)	If not released to market potential sales could be jeopardised. Future growth of Dungog township important for the local economy.	Ensure next stage is released to market	Consider future options for future Melbee development (Erby's block)	Further residential land released to market.

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Abbotts Flat – Strategic Development	(a)(e1)	Additional sportsgrounds required coupled with the opportunity to create a public space that has significant opportunity into the future.	Commencement of planning as per Operational Plan 2016/17	Progression of strategic element and funding provision in future budgets	Completion of the development.
Sheltons Land	(a)(e1)	Opportunity to create additional carparking in proximity to CBD and extend parklands and cycleway.	Commencement of planning as per Operational Plan 2016/17	Progression of strategic element and funding provision in future budgets	Completion of the development.
Clarence Town Quarry	(a)(e1)	Establishment additional sportsground at Clarence Town.	Commencement of planning as per Operational Plan 2016/17	Progression of strategic element, review of Sec 94 and Council funding provision in future budgets	Completion of the development.
Councils internally restricted financial reserves.	(a)(e1)	Loss of control of funds that has been collected from within the Dungog LGA	Continued funding allocations are committed to Dungog LGA so that projects into the future can be delivered as required.	Continued funding allocations are committed to Dungog LGA so that projects into the future can be delivered as required.	Dungog LGA projects into the future are undertaken.
Economic development projects & emerging markets		Future vitality of local economies and communities.	Recognise locally driven initiatives i.e Proposed motorsport facility, industrial hemp, organic foods etc.	Recognise locally driven initiatives i.e Proposed motorsport facility, industrial hemp, organic foods etc.	Recognise locally driven initiatives i.e Proposed motorsport facility, industrial hemp, organic foods etc.

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Frank Robinson Park	(a)(e1)(f)	Significant benefit to tourism and business community	Preparatory work completed by Council staff in accordance with documents at hand.	Approval by Administrator	Frank Robinson Park fully operational as a roadside rest area for light self-contained RV vehicles with a 48hr limit.
Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee	(b)(e1)	Furthering the protection of the agricultural lands and the fostering of community education in relation to noxious weeds control	Continuance of the noxious weeds advisory committee	Continuance of the noxious weeds advisory committee	Continuance of the noxious weeds advisory committee