

## **ADDITIONAL ITEM**

26 March 2014  
To the Ordinary Council Meeting

Director's Report  
Councillor

### **1.6 Mayoral Minute - Wyee Boundary Adjustment**

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TRIM REFERENCE: F2004/06544 - D06352771

MANAGER: Jean Pooley, Personal Assistant to Mayor

AUTHOR: Doug Eaton; Councillor

The Local Government Independent Panel in both its draft report and final report recommended that the boundary between Lake Macquarie City Council and Wyong Shire Council be shifted northwards such that Morisset and Wyee would come within the Wyong Local Government area.

Wyong Shire Council has previously formally resolved to support the Wyee boundary adjustment.

Lake Macquarie City Council held a public meeting on Thursday 27 February. However Wyee residents did not receive timely invitations. Wyong Council was not notified and was refused permission to speak at the meeting.

In response to the resident's concerns as to this meeting a further meeting is to be held on Thursday 27 March.

On 5 March, I wrote to Mayor Harrison, a copy of this letter is attached.

On 11 March Mayor Harrison sent me a letter. Copy attached.

Also attached are copies of Lakes Mail and Newcastle Herald articles canvassing the meeting and Mayoral correspondence.

In short Lake Macquarie City has refused Wyong Shire Council to attend or address the meeting on 27 March and for any balanced assessment to be given to the attendees of the benefits and dis benefits.

Indeed I have received feedback that inaccurate information is being circulated as to Wyong Shire Council's financial situation and water situation.

Lake Macquarie City Council commissioned a survey that critically only asks a question about boundary changes for both Morisset and Wyee. Further it is clear from other information in this survey that particularly in Wyee the key issue is the provision of both sewerage and water infrastructure.

Interestingly 25% of Wyee respondents rate Lake Macquarie City Council as poor or very poor and only 23% as excellent or very good and 50% of Wyee respondents were supportive of boundary change to at least some degree.

In my view the critical issue to be established before a meaningful discussion can be held with the community is Wyong's ability (or otherwise) to provide water and sewerage infrastructure to the Wyee district in a timely and affordable manner.

*I formally move:*

- 1** *That Council receive and notes this report and the report of the Local Government Independent Panel.*
- 2** *That Council direct the General Manager to prepare a draft water and sewerage servicing plan for the Wyee district and report back to Council.*
- 3** *That Council authorise the Mayor to continue representations on this matter for the benefit of the wider community.*

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

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|----------|--|-----------|
| <b>1</b> | Mayor - letter to Mayor Harrison, Lake Macquarie City Council  | D06117180 |
| <b>2</b> | Mayor - letter from Mayor of Lake Macquarie, Councillor Jodie Harrison   | D06375054 |
| <b>3</b> | Newspaper Clippings - Newcastle Herald - merger meeting stacked - residents vent over proposals - council merger - amalgamation      | D06367030 |
| <b>4</b> | Newspaper Clipping - Lakes Mail Moriset - council merger - council amalgamation - Mayor Doug Eaton - public meeting - Wyee residents | D06293755 |



**Office of the Mayor**  
**Cr Doug Eaton**  
**Mayor of Wyong**

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F2004/06544

5<sup>th</sup> March 2014

Mayor Jodie Harrison  
Lake Macquarie City Council  
PO Box 1906  
Hunter Regional Mail Centre NSW 2310

Dear Mayor Harrison

**INDEPENDENT PANEL'S RECOMMENDATION BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT**

As you are aware the Independent Panel has recommended our mutual boundary be shifted north so as to include Wyee and Morriset in the Central Coast.

I note your council convened a public meeting at Wyee last week to consult on this recommendation. The following concerns have been raised with me by residents in the affected area.

- a) Wyong Council not being part of this meeting. Not invited, not allowed to speak, not notified.
- b) Wyee residents mostly not being notified or not notified in time.
- c) The meeting being stacked with Morriset residents.
- d) The meeting not being factual or objective. There was no identification of benefits.

I understand that due to these issues you have undertaken to convene a further meeting.

To ensure that the affected residents get a balanced case, I request that Wyong Council present at this meeting and receive equal time. I also request that a member of the Independent Panel be invited to make a presentation on the reasoning behind their recommendation. The meeting would of course need to be chaired by an independent person.

I note the panel representative may need to be recompensed and advise my council will meet any such expense.

I await your response to my request.

Yours faithfully

Cr Doug Eaton  
**MAYOR**





*From the Office of*

*Her Worship the Mayor of the City of Lake Macquarie, Councillor Jodie Harrison*



11 March 2014

Mayor Doug Eaton  
Wyong Shire Council  
PO Box 20  
Wyong NSW 2259

Dear Mayor Eaton

**Subject: Community consultation**

Thank you for your letter, which was received by Lake Macquarie City Council a matter of hours ago.

Council is undertaking community engagement with its residents in Morisset and Wyee on the options put forward by the Independent Local Government Review Panel.

The entire population of the greater Morisset and Wyee area was invited by personal letter and in the media to the one community meeting to which you refer. At that meeting, the overwhelming response was that the information was well received and appreciated by the residents, and Council's position was widely supported.

We will continue our commitment to community engagement on all matters of importance in our City, including potential boundary adjustments, and as always we will remain committed to having those discussions wherever they will be of benefit to our communities.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Jodie Harrison".

Councillor Jodie Harrison  
**Mayor**

Our Ref: F2012/00045

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