

Subject:
Date:

[REDACTED]
Cradle Coast Community Amalgamation Proposal Response Submission
Sunday, 30 July 2023 2:57:12 PM

[REDACTED]

To the Future of Local Government Review Board,

I hope this email finds you well. My name is Gilles Carrabin, and I am a proud resident of the Kentish Council. I am writing to express my heartfelt concerns regarding the proposed amalgamation of our local council with the larger city council.

First and foremost, I want to emphasise the deep sense of community and local representation that our small rural council provides. We have developed strong bonds and connections with our council members, which has allowed us to address local issues with a more personalised and community-focused approach.

I believe that the proposed amalgamation may result in a significant loss of local autonomy and representation. Our community's unique needs and concerns could be overshadowed in a larger administrative body, leaving us with limited influence over decisions that directly impact our lives.

Moreover, I worry about the potential impact on service delivery. Our current council has demonstrated a remarkable ability to address local issues promptly and efficiently. The shift to a larger city council could lead to disparities in service provision, as resources are spread thinner across a larger area. It is essential that our community's access to vital services and support is not compromised in this process.

Furthermore, I am concerned about the proposed switch from the fixed rate annual fee system for rubbish disposal to a usage-based fee. While the idea of a usage-based fee system might incentivise waste reduction and responsible disposal practices, it could inadvertently foster an environment where some residents resort to improper waste disposal methods to avoid higher costs. This could lead to increased illegal dumping and environmental damage, posing significant threats to our local environment and surrounding nature.

The cultural and social fabric of our small rural council is one of its defining characteristics. The proposed amalgamation could challenge our close-knit community's cohesion and identity, as the larger city council may have different priorities and ways of doing things.

I understand that amalgamations often come with bureaucratic complexities and challenges. I fear that navigating this transition might lead to inefficiencies and delays in decision-making, hindering our council's ability to serve our community effectively. While I acknowledge the potential for cost savings, I am concerned about the initial financial costs associated with the integration process. Additionally, projected savings might not fully materialise, leading to unintended financial burdens for our community in the long run.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate my strong opposition to the proposed amalgamation of our local small rural council into the larger city council. I firmly believe that preserving the integrity of our local governance is essential for the continued growth and prosperity of

our community.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns. I would be grateful for any opportunity to discuss this matter further or participate in the consultation process. Please feel free to contact me via this email address if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Gilles Carrabin

