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ITEM 1 - PROGRESS REPORT UPDATES – FIT FOR THE FUTURE ................3

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Dear Councillors

Please find attached six (6) documents outlining the latest Fit for the Future Progress information issued since the NSW Government announcements on the 18 December 2015.


   • You will note on page 2 – What’s new in this Update – that consultation on Phase 1 amendments to streamline legislation will commence in January 2016.

   • IPART has been commissioned to commence a review of the rating system and the report will be presented to the Government between July – December 2016.

   • Councils that have been deemed as “Fit” will have access to the new TCorp borrowing system, although it is not clear when this facility will be available.

   • The Financial Assistance Grants will be review and consultation with Councils in respect to reallocations will occur between April and June 2016.

   • You will note the comment made in the - Next Steps: Key Milestones (at the end of the document) in the timeframes marked July - December 2016 it is stated – Aim for Local Government elections.

2. **Correspondence from LG NSW President, Cr Keith Rhoades to the, the Hon Premier Mike Baird MP. (Dated 23 December 2016 – Seeking clarification)**

   • Letter sent to the Premier, the Hon Mike Baird, in which a number of questions have been raised in relation to the announcement on the 18 December 2015.
   
   
   - Council Boundary Review Document was issued today (7 January 2016) and primarily deals with the process that will be undertaken for those Councils that will be subject to merger proposals.
   - Of interest is the information outlined on pages 9-13, outlining the names and profiles of the delegates that have been appointed to undertake the merger proposals.

4. **Instrument of Delegation**
   (Issued by Acting Chief Executive – Office of Local Government)
   
   - The Instrument of Delegation as signed by the Acting Chief Executive Officer, Mr Tim Hurst sets out the Delegates and the proposed mergers that each Delegate will be responsible for.

   *Please note that documents 5 and 6 are attached for information only – these do not relate to Wingecarribee Shire.*

5. **Circular to Councils 15-43 / 18 December 2015**
   (NSW Government – Office of Local Government)
   
   
   - This Circular relates to Section 23A Guidelines – Council Decision Making during Merger Proposal Periods.
   - Please note that this only relates to those Councils subject to the proposed mergers.

6. **Council Decision Making During Merger Proposal Periods**
   
   - Documentation detailing the guidelines relating only to Councils which are subject to the proposed mergers.