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From: Andrew Hopkins

Sent: Tuesday, 21 August 2007 10:48 AM

To: Web, Administrator (SEN)

Cc: Elson, Kay (MP)

Subject: Local Government Plebiscites Inquiry

To whom it may concern.

I reside under the umbrella of the Gold Coast City Council.

Under the Amalgamation of Councils proposed and forced upon us, as from March 2008, we will be under the control of Logan City Council – a move most of the affected residents oppose for several reasons.

We were told the so called "Independent Committee" made the decision for us to amalgamate. Point one, how could the 'Independent Committee' be independent when a certain Terry Mc Enroth, who was Local Government Minister in the Goss Labour Government in the early nineties, was a leading light on the panel ?. It was this particular Minister who then forced Albert Shire to join with Gold Coast much to the disgust of us all – no benefit whatsoever to ratepayers. In fact rates went up - dog rego's went from \$4 pa to \$16pa!

Now, if this amalgamation goes through, our rates will again increase, mine by an estimated \$300 pa. Plus we will lose the option of going to the tip for free, Logan charge. Logan are renowned for being a high rated City.

Point two, we were told certain Councils had to amalgamate because they were not financially viable. Both Gold Coast and Logan are financially viable, so why are we forced to amalgamate?

I and others in this area, feel strongly that this has been a political issue, and not financial as far as we are concerned.. Had we had the opportunity to vote on this issue, I'm confident the proposed amalgamation would have been voted down by a very large majority.. Having been to a Chamber of Commerce breakfast held in Beenleigh last Friday, and heard the Logan Mayor, Graham Able speak, it made my resolve to fight this issue even greater, and I'm certain he comes from the same stable as 'Jackboot Pete'!

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this email.

Thanks
Andrew Hopkins