Submission must be made by 5.00 pm Sunday 28 February 2016

Mr John Turner

Council Boundary Review

Submitted online at

<https://www.councilboundaryreview.nsw.gov.au/proposals/palerang-and-queanbeyan-city-councils/>

Dear Mr Turner

**Submission regarding the Council Boundary Reviews for merging the western part of Palerang and Queanbeyan City Council, and the whole of Palerang and Queanbeyan City Council**

Thank you for the opportunity of providing a submission relating to 1) the State government’s proposal to split Palerang LGA and merge the eastern part of it with Goulburn Mulwaree Council and the western part with Queanbeyan City Council and 2) Palerang Council’s proposal to merge the whole of the Palerang LGA and Queanbeyan City Council.

I live in [INSERT NAME OF LOCALITY] in the rural residential area of the western part of the Palerang local government area.

I oppose the government’s split and merge proposal and believe that it should be rejected. This is because it does not reflect the evidence about benefits and costs of the merger, it is opposed by the people of Palerang (as revealed through independent, professionally-conducted community surveys) and by many Queanbeyan City residents, and it does not meet the criteria specified in section 263 of the *Local Government Act (1993)*.

The merger proposal is problematic on many criteria, including those set out in the *Act*. The State Government’s merger proposal document has a table, at page 18, that purports to show the ways in which proposal is justified in terms of these criteria. In my view, based on my intimate knowledge of my community, of Palerang generally and of Queanbeyan City, most of the arguments presented in the merger document are factually wrong or so weak as to be insignificant.

I submit that a fair assessment of the arguments against the criteria set out in the Act will readily lead to the outcome that you, as Delegate, should conclude that the merger proposal is not justified and hence that the status quo should be maintained. Palerang Council should continue to exist and its boundary should not be changed as this would be disastrous for the people of Palerang, and of no benefit to those of the other two council areas.

<Replace this text with your name>
<Replace this text with your address—Include locality, e.g. Wamboin, at least>
<Replace this text with the current date> February 2016