

**Office of the Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP**

Minister for the Environment
Minister for Local Government
Minister for Heritage

Ref:
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Mr Austin Evans MP
Member for Murray
228 Cressy Street
Deniliquin NSW 2710

By email: murray@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Evans,

Thank you for your letter regarding Berrigan Shire Council's *Fit for the Future* status.

I am pleased to advise that this matter has now been successfully resolved and Berrigan Shire Council has been granted access to the TCorp borrowing facility.

On 15 November 2017 the Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP, wrote to council advising that, following the Government's decision to not progress any further with council mergers, the *Fit for the Future* program had been brought to a conclusion. The program has resulted in significant improvements to local government's sustainability, with the majority of NSW councils now achieving the Government's financial benchmarks, or having a plan to do so within an acceptable timeframe.

Having now received this advice from Minister Upton, I trust that Berrigan Shire Council will continue to implement its Improvement Plan and will take the opportunity to become a member of the new Joint Organisations network. Proposals to establish Joint Organisations will be received until 28 February 2018 and I would encourage councils in the Murray region to be actively involved in this process.

At my request, Mr Chris Presland of the Office of Local Government is available on (02) 4428 4100 or olg@olg.nsw.gov.au should you have any further enquiries.

Yours sincerely

Scot MacDonald MLC
Parliamentary Secretary for Planning
Parliamentary Secretary for the Central Coast and the Hunter





The Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP
 Minister for the Environment
 Minister for Local Government
 Minister for Heritage

Doc ID: A569814

Clr Matthew Hannan
 Mayor
 Berrigan Shire Council
 PO Box 137
 BERRIGAN NSW 2712

By email: mhannan@berriganshire.nsw.gov.au

Dear Clr Hannan

Following the Government's decision to not progress any further with local council mergers, the *Fit for the Future* process has come to a conclusion. *Fit for the Future* has resulted in improvements to councils' sustainability, with the majority of NSW councils now successfully achieving the financial sustainability benchmarks or having an acceptable plan to do so within a reasonable timeframe.

The Government remains committed to monitoring the established financial benchmarks and implementation of the approved Improvement Plans submitted by councils. The Office of Local Government is currently finalising a monitoring program to enable this and will release further details to councils shortly.

Councils that did not meet the "scale and capacity" criteria under *Fit for the Future* and have an endorsed Improvement Plan or have been assessed as meeting the financial sustainability benchmarks will be eligible to apply for access to the TCorp State Borrowing Facility. Councils eligible for the borrowing facility will still need to meet TCorp lending criteria.

At my request, Mr Tim Hurst, Acting Chief Executive from the Office of Local Government is available on (02) 4428 4100 or olg@olg.nsw.gov.au should you have any further enquiries.

Yours sincerely

Gabrielle Upton MP
 Minister for the Environment
 Minister for Local Government
 Minister for Heritage

15.11.17