

## **ATTACHMENT 5**

# AUSTRALIAN SERVICES UNION

## SUBMISSION

TO

## REVIEW OF THE POSSIBLE RESTUCTURING

OF

## HUME MUNICIPALITY

Darrell Cochrane  
Branch Secretary  
ASU-MEU/PS Branch  
22<sup>nd</sup> August 2000

## **Introduction**

The following comments are forwarded on behalf of Hume City Council members of the ASU MEU/Private Sector Branch and the ASU Services & Energy Branch. Our combined union Shop Committee was forwarded copies of the Terms of Reference and were asked to seek the views of the members they represent.

A meeting of the combined union Shop Committee was held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> August, which I attended and the following comments are based on the feedback from our members through this process:

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE 1.**

### **Financial impacts**

Our members believe that there will be financial impacts on Hume and a new council if a restructure was to occur. They do not see how it could be cheaper to provide services by splitting the municipality.

There would be potential for further redundancies to occur, this would impact considerably on the council/s and includes meeting the possible council redundancy costs plus superannuation redundancy costs for members of the defined benefit scheme made redundant.

A Sunbury only based council would not be entitled to obtain rate revenue from the Melbourne Airport, this would impact on Sunbury ratepayers. We understand that the Sunbury community currently benefits on a proportional basis on the income derived from the Airport rate revenue. A potential outcome is for rates to increase for both municipalities due to such a change. Such an outcome would not be well received by the community.

Another concern we have is what would occur to existing contractual arrangements whether in-house or external? Most of the contracts have different expiry dates and generally operating across the current council, how would they be split? Would there be costs incurred due to breach of contracts with external providers.

Another potential financial impact is that of tourism, a larger municipality such as Hume has far more potential than a smaller council to market the growth of tourism throughout the municipality. Some of the tourist attractions are based in the Sunbury region, which has a benefit in particular to the small business community.

### **Economic impact**

Our members believe that a Sunbury council would be too small to viably provide all existing services provided by Hume, this would lead to the council either having contractual arrangements with Hume council or alternatively outsourcing some services. The latter option could also impact on Hume as they would have to address whether the revised service was viable or not.



We understand that the Sunbury Ratepayers Association has been indicating through the media that they believe that Hume could continue to provide some of these services under a contractual arrangement, we find this difficult to understand for the following reasons:

- It would not Sunbury Ratepayers Association that would make such decisions, it would be the elected council making such decisions; and
- our members are find it difficult to understand that the people pushing this issue would want to retain Hume as a service provider when they are critical of the Hume Council.

It is our view that a likely outcome would be that a Sunbury based council would not want to provide the outdoor physical services. They would have the added cost of providing a suitable depot facility in Sunbury. Hume council would likely want to retain most, if not all of the existing plant equipment as most of it is utilised across the current municipality.

If jobs were outsourced, this would possibly have an economic impact on the Sunbury small business community. Many of the Hume employees are locals, our industry experience highlights that local contractors who would more than likely be employing locals, are generally not successful in winning larger contracts. This would mean that income earned would not be spent within the local business community.

It should be noted that the only town to survive the mergers that occurred during the Kennett Government forced mergers, was surprisingly the Borough of Queenscliffe. They have since outsourced their outdoor physical services to Greater Geelong City Council.

### **Social impacts**

There is a concern about how some of the community services currently provided would be split up. This area of Hume's services is extremely important as it provides excellent service to the elderly, people with disabilities, child and maternal services.

Our members believe that any break-up of this service would be detrimental to the community, with a possible outcome of reducing the level of service available due to some duplication of costs, particularly in the management area.

An impact for our members would be about which employees would transfer to a Sunbury council? While a number of employees reside in Sunbury, their services may well be required with the current council and their preference may well be to stay with the larger council due to future career opportunities.

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE 2.**

### **Impact on services**

As stated we believe that a Sunbury council would possibly outsource some of its services immediately. This would mean that the community would be confronted with a competitive environment from external providers only.

This could lead to the residents paying more for their services, or the quality and level of services being reduced. Our experience shows that where there is an in-house bid, the external providers are much sharper with their pencil when tendering.

The other concern raised in our response to Term of Reference 1., is what happens to existing contracts whether internal or external? If contracts are split, this would lead to the requirement for negotiations for contract variations and likely increases in costs, due to the level of service being changed. If this was to occur, we believe that it would lead to increased costs to the Hume and Sunbury communities overall.

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE 3.**

### **Governance impacts**

There would obviously be an impact on the Governance as it would lead to an increase in the number of councillors, senior management positions and the administrative support staff. Sunbury residents would have to meet such costs, their current share of such costs is minimal compared to the costs that would be incurred under a new council.

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE 4.**

### **Employment patterns**

The unemployment levels in Sunbury (less than 6%) are quite low, however, the levels in Broadmeadows are extremely high (in excess of 15%). The impact of splitting the council has the potential to further increase the unemployment levels if services are changed and possibly outsourced.

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE 5.**

### **Community diversity**

Our members believe that this issue is being pushed by two Sunbury based community groups and would not have the support of the majority of the local community if all of the facts were put before them.

The former Bulla Shire included far more than just Sunbury, taking in Bulla, Craigieburn, Greenvale, Mickleham and Oaklands Junction. The former Bulla Shire ratepayers of the other suburbs mentioned above do not seem to be seeking the same diversification.



One of the issues that council mergers have incurred, is the potential for fringe suburbs to feel as if they are left out as far as services are concerned. We believe that this cannot be argued in Sunbury's case, due to its population density, all of the Hume council services are readily available.

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE 6**

### **Attracting new business**

The only comment we offer is the fact that the current Hume council has far more potential to recruit new business to the municipality (including Sunbury), by being in a position to offer establishment subsidies. It is difficult to see a smaller council being able to do this at the same level that Hume could.

Melbourne Airport used to have to negotiate for any infrastructure changes with three former councils, (Broadmeadows, Bulla and Keilor), now it only negotiates with one council, Hume. This is an important issue for larger businesses establishing in any area.

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE 7.**

### **Infrastructure issues**

Hume council has maintained services to the Sunbury community including the former shire office, council chambers and other services. The main issue for our members would be the fact that there is not a suitable depot facility available at Sunbury to accommodate the plant and equipment required to provide the necessary physical services.

To purchase/lease a reasonable sized property to accommodate plant equipment and the appropriate infrastructure would be extremely costly on such a small municipality covering Sunbury only. Our members believe that the impact of such costs would lead to a Sunbury council not providing such services.

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE 8.**

### **Administrative, financial & rating impact**

It is the view of our members that splitting the council will lead to increased costs to Hume and Sunbury ratepayers and has longer-term financial implications on the communities.

The alternative is reducing the level and quality of services provided, we do not believe that the community would be prepared to accept further reductions. Due to council mergers and CCT, most services suffered either a reduction in the level and/or quality of service being provided. This was mainly due to the new councils, such as Hume, being required by the State Government to meet specific cost reductions within short prescribed timelines.

The only way that municipalities could meet such a demand was to retrench staff based on the level of costs required to be reduced, rather than the level of service provided. We believe that Hume ratepayers did suffer because of this.

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE 9.**

### **Other matters**

While accepting that the Bracks Government did offer the opportunity for such a review, we are concerned about the affect it is having on our members. They have been confronted with more reform than any other public sector authority over the last decade, due to a combination of firstly council mergers followed by CCT.

### **Existing contracts**

Most of them are currently working under in-house bids, which in their view gives them limited tenure employment, usually 3 year contracts with a 2 year extension option. At the same time many of them are earning incomes below recognised poverty line figures.

### **Industrial issues**

You will be aware that the ASU has a number of industrial agreements with Hume City Council. They are respondents to the Local Authorities Interim Award, we have a current framework Enterprise Agreement plus a series of Local Area Work Agreements (LAWA's), each covering a specific service provided in-house by council with varied operative dates.

Most, if not all of these agreements would have to be revisited due to the change in services that would be required. While we would see a new council as a successor body and as a consequence, transmission of business would apply, this would mean that we would insist that employees transferring across to a new council would not be disadvantaged in any way.

A new council could not force employees to transfer across to a new council. If an insufficient number of employees with appropriate skills were not willing to transfer and Hume council did not require their services, under our agreements, redundancy would apply. This would be a further financial burden on both Hume and Sunbury ratepayers.

### **Workplace morale**

Our members believe that it is only a small minority of Sunbury ratepayers that are promoting a Sunbury council. The issue is creating even more angst amongst our members by creating further uncertainty over their future. The local publicity that this issue has brought with it, is having a considerable affect on their morale.

### **Conclusion**

For all of the above reasons, the greater majority of our Hume City Council members do not support splitting the council by establishing a Sunbury Council. As has been mentioned in our letter, we would be happy to make an oral submission, which would include Hume Shop Committee representatives.

## **ATTACHMENT 6**



# Sunbury Chamber Of Commerce Inc.

PO Box 253  
Sunbury Vic 3429

Submission on the Removal of Sunbury out of Hume and establishing a new stand alone municipality consisting of all of that area from Deep Creek to the existing boundary with Melton and Macedon Ranges.

Since the Local Government Review Board put Sunbury into the "City of Hume" and not as a stand alone Shire similar to Melton or established a Shire incorporating Gisborne, Riddells Creek, Romsey, Lancefield, and Macedon, many local residents felt that they have been deceived or cheated.

At the time of the review the majority of Sunbury residents believed that we would not be part of "Hume" and it came as a complete surprise to discover what was to become the greatest disappointment the then Government would perpetrate.

Even now recent surveys – Regional Newspaper Telephone Pole – Sunbury Chamber of Commerce Pole – reveals that over 90% of Sunbury Residents still want to have Sunbury removed from Hume.

## **DIFFICULTY OF IDENTIFICATION**

Sunbury sees itself as the gateway to the Macedon Ranges.

The logo of the old "Shire of Bulla" City Living, Country Style" has considerable relevance for Sunbury.

It is separate from Melbourne and in particular the City of Hume both geographically and in many respects "culturally".

In real terms the "culture" of the town and the people who live within it's environs is totally different to those in the Melbourne Metropolitan area, and in particular Broadmeadows, Airport West and Tullamarine.

We value our "green" surroundings and have worked hard to retain them rather than the "Build at any cost" approach demonstrated by many of the Metropolitan Councilors for Hume.

## **DIFFICULTIES WITH TRANSPORT**

At the moment for a resident to visit the Council Offices located in Broadmeadows they need to have access to a car or motor bike.

Public Transport going directly to Broadmeadows is basically non-existent.

You must travel to Essendon by bus then train to Broadmeadows or by train to North Melbourne and another train to Broadmeadows – neither is very satisfactory at all.

## **DIFFICULTY WITH SERVICES**

More and more council services are being withdrawn out of Sunbury.

Council closed the local pound, which means for a local Sunbury Resident to retrieve an animal unfortunate enough to have been caught by the Ranger; they (the owner) must go all of the way to Whittlesea to collect their Pet.....  
.....if it hasn't been put down.

And now we find the situation with the basic council services such as the road maintenance teams needs to pick up their equipment from the Maffra Street Depot in Broadmeadows, drive all the way to Sunbury complete their work and drive all of the way back.

Without a doubt this will reduce their effective working time on the job in Sunbury leading to less work at a higher cost.

## **CITY LIVING – COUNTRY STYLE**

We have already spoken of the Shire of Bulla logo "City Living – Country Style"

There is no doubt that this "point of difference" to living in the suburbs has drawn many people to Sunbury.

One of our primary reasons for wanting to protect our "point of difference" is the fact that a number of the City Of Hume Metropolitan Councilors have shown by the decisions they have made in council, that they have no concern for the people of Sunbury and demonstrate that they have no empathy or basic understanding of the character and lifestyle we are working to develop and protect ...and they have made no effort to find out exactly what we want.

Basically, we are extremely concerned that the character and semi rural lifestyle will be destroyed if Sunbury remains part of Hume.



Evidence for this is found in a number of recent planning decisions which ran contrary to Hume's own planning guide lines and were overturned only after residents took the issues to the Administrative Appeal Commission.

### **LACK OF BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY**

When Sunbury was under the old Shire of Bulla many of the local businesses enjoyed the opportunity of being a supplier of goods and/or services to the Shire.

Not any more – a significant amount, if all, of the business has been lost to Sunbury Traders.

Apart from the direct business that was lost from the Shire itself, there is also the Business lost to the employee of the council who purchased from the local business in Sunbury.

### **IN CONCLUSION**

The Chamber is aware of the representation made by other groups and individuals and in particular wishes to make it known that we support and endorse the material supplied to you by the Sunbury Residents Association.

We support the model they are proposing for the new Council Structure as well as the proposed budget, and the opportunities for debt reduction.

Lance Futchner  
Chairman  
Sunbury Chamber of Commerce Inc.  
22/08/2000.



## **ATTACHMENT 7**

## ATTACHMENT 7 – ISSUES AND COMMENTS RAISED BY SUBMITTERS TO THE PANEL

The following summary aims to provide a flavour of the issues and comments made within submissions to the Local Government (*Hume City Council*) Review Panel.

This summary does not include extracts from the submissions of the Sunbury Residents Association or Australian Services Union, and their submissions are included in full as separate attachments.

Many of the comments made were similar in nature. This summary is not intended to be a complete analysis of all submissions, and does not include comments from every submission. However, the Panel believes it reflects the nature and strength of comments made.

| ISSUE                              | Submitters' Comments  | Ref. No. |
|------------------------------------|---|----------|
| Process and financial implications | <i>"What Business would ask its Shareholders to vote for a split up of its structure without any disclosure of the financial implications to the Business or the Shareholders?"</i>   | S8       |
|                                    | <i>I do not feel the residents of Sunbury are being provided with a complete view of the feasibility and viability of Hume City becoming two separate municipalities. It is of great concern that there appears to be an over representation of the "yes" case in the local media and at recent consultative meetings of the Local Government Panel"</i>  | S9       |
|                                    | <i>" The full financial ramifications...should be made accessible to all ratepayers in the City of Hume. Once this has been achieved only then can the ratepayers make a truly considered and rational judgement of the issues."</i>  |          |
|                                    | <i>"My question for the Panel is. Is this sum (total recurrent revenue) enough to provide for all of Sunbury's needs without loss of current services or an increase of rates of no more than \$50?"</i>  | S15      |
|                                    | <i>"As you can see I have mentioned issues from both perspectives. The underlying issue is that I support the separation only if it financially viable to do so."</i>   |          |
|                                    | <i>" The transition to a Sunbury based municipality can be readily implemented with appointment by the State Government of a transition authority to manage the creation of a new municipality, operating from the Macedon Street premises. This would be followed by the election of a minimum number of Councillors (suggest five). The goodwill of the community and support from the State government are essential elements. A municipal organisation structured and functioning along a contemporary style will be required to affect such a transition."</i> | S22      |
|                                    | <i>"We do not have enough financial information to decide if it would be economically viable. How much would our rates increase? By seceding from Hume would Sunbury stagnate and go backwards."</i>  | CM7      |

| ISSUE            | Submitters' Comments  | Ref. No. |
|------------------|---|----------|
| Future proposals | <i>"I as a ratepayer for 14 years (in Craigieburn) first to Bulla Council and now to Hume have in this time found Bulla to use all our rates to pave Sunbury in gold, and now want to be separated from Hume so they don't have to help the Craigieburn area to become more affluent like good roads, places for our kids to go..... And it is about time Hume gave us a better go with our rates that what we have had so far...."</i> | S5       |
|                  | <i>"I wish to strongly voice my objection to the proposal to separate Sunbury.....to form a new stand-alone municipality."</i>  | S6       |
|                  | <i>"I am concerned that a stand-alone Sunbury would not have the growth potential and sustainable rate base to provide the services and infrastructure needed in an outer fringe municipality. I also do not believe that there would be ability to provide for new capital works."</i>   |          |
|                  | <i>"At present, my view is that the benefits of being part of the City of Hume far outweigh the so called benefits of going it alone."</i>  | S9       |
|                  | <i>"It is apparently proposed that Deep Creek be the dividing line if Sunbury are successful in the breakaway motion. This is absolutely ridiculous as this would completely divide our town in two. The township and surrounds of Bulla should <b>definitely be included.</b>"</i>   | S11      |
|                  | <i>"We have already proved that we can be a viable and independent Council and we should be again."</i>   | S12      |
|                  | <i>"I would be prepared to pay a little more in my rates to enable us to have our own council."</i>   |          |
|                  | <i>"I am a 20 year resident of Sunbury and support Sunbury separating from Hume and forming its own local government, becoming a stand alone shire."</i>  | S16      |
|                  | <i>I support this even though a rate increase maybe necessary to make the shire financially viable."</i>  |          |
|                  | <i>" In closing I urge the Panel to rule in creating a Shire of Sunbury for the sake of the above mentioned reasons, which most of the residents of this area really desire, hoping that common sense will prevail in the final decision."</i>  | S18      |
|                  | <i>"Bulla is small and to isolate us from Sunbury, would mean, everyone just forgets about us, we are not big enough to care about, but we have rights as ratepayers. If the cut off point was Deep Creek it would be very unfair, very confusing, we should stay as a whole package, not be split up, and also stay with Sunbury, our nearest provider of essential services, e.g Banks, Shops, Hospital, Doctor, Schools."</i>        | S21      |
|                  | <i>"Having lived in Sunbury and participated in community life for a reasonable period of time, I am not convinced of the necessity, or the viability of Sunbury establishing a separate Shire. Although our town is unique in certain respects, this does not correlate to the need for a separate municipality. My concerns generally relate to the effect this would have on rates as well as the level of services provided."</i>   | S25      |



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|  | <i>"I'm a little concerned about the true viability of the proposed plan. For example, have any considerations been taken into account of financial support, especially for local businesses, schools and the provision of such services currently provided for by Hume? Has any proper and legitimate community consulting taken place, if not by the Hon. Bob Cameron, but by an individual group without a vested interest (other than the Sunbury Residents Association)? These minor phone polls conducted by the SRA and the local paper should not be considered as concrete support, as they are truly misleading themselves and the public as to whether or not there is Sunbury support. Surely there are more than 1000 residents in Sunbury..."</i> | S27  |
|  | <i>"One big advantage for a Sunbury separation would be a full Council made up of Sunbury Councillors and with them comes knowledge."</i>   | S30  |
|  | <i>"I request the Review Panel to take into account that the people living in the Diggers Rest area rely heavily on the resources provided by and used by the people living in Sunbury and that any change to the council boundaries would have an impact on Diggers Rest. I would estimate that 80-90% of people living in Diggers Rest rely on the shopping complexes at Sunbury."</i>  | S31  |
|  | <i>"I understand that I have not strictly addressed your terms of reference, however I do not have all the facts and figures available and I am putting forward my opinions. But as a ratepayer who will be affected by your decision my opinion should be equal to that of the SRA, they also have never produced any hard evidence of what a City of Sunbury would achieve other than a name change."</i><br><br><i>In summary I believe that if Sunbury were taken out of Hume it would mean less services, increased costs and unemployment for some current Council employees."</i>  | S 32 |
|  | <i>"Although Sunbury residents may see themselves as a unique and special population, that doesn't give them the right to impose their unique wishes onto the rest of the municipality.....<br/>...People in areas like Tullamarine aren't on the highest of salaries and would be very badly affected by any rate increase. I can't imagine where many of them will find the extra money. I don't believe many Sunbury residents would be ecstatic about their rate going up either."</i>  | S33  |
|  | <i>"...we feel that Sunbury and its residents, would be far better off being its own identity, preferably the Shire of Sunbury or similar. We understand that there may be a 'one off' cost to residents to implement such a move, but feel the results would be well worth it."</i>  | S34  |
|  | <i>"Sunbury has nice wineries, lovely creeks and waterways as well as wetlands and historic buildings. This is why my husband and I love living here....The problem with Sunbury though is that it has no industry to survive on its own. All the main companies like the airport, and the new plants that are being built are in the other end of Hume. I can only imagine like many people are saying that our rates will have to increase significantly."</i>  | S35  |
|  | <i>"....it is suggested that the development of the municipal structure for its future could safely be determined outside any past or present examples. There would now be many advantages in a cohesive and separate township compared to the tribal areas of the old Shire. "</i>   | S37  |
|  | <i>"Broadmeadows would be better off without us, they could concentrate on their own area without the distant support involved to Sunbury."</i>   | S38  |

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|  | <i>"I am in favour of Sunbury breaking from the City of Hume providing it is viable. ....Sunbury people are also passionate about their enviable identity."</i>  | <i>CM9</i>       |
|  | <i>"I would like to see Sunbury/Bulla become a separate municipality from Broadmeadows. Since the shire merge I feel Sunbury has had its assets sold, eg. council land sold to make more residential subdivisions, giving the Hume shire more funds but without them setting up the right infrastructure for a swelling population. Sunbury did not ask for this and we feel we are losing our country living atmosphere."</i> | <i>CM<br/>15</i> |
|  | <i>"We choose to remain in Sunbury in the hope that Sunbury will separate from Hume....<br/><br/>In the event of Sunbury leaving Hume we should not be disadvantaged financially for the years we were forced to spend as part of Hume."</i>   | <i>CM<br/>21</i> |
|  | <i>"As a resident for 20 years I am concerned that a continuation of Sunbury Town in Hume Council is not in the best interests of the town. Demographics between Sunbury and the rest of Hume are not complementary. We are a semi-rural community with residents in mid income brackets predominantly with families."</i>   | <i>CM<br/>36</i> |
|  | <i>"We believe Sunbury is large enough to go autonomous."</i>  | <i>CM<br/>41</i> |

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| <b>Identity</b><br><br><b>Attraction to area</b> | <p><i>"Sunbury is a unique place and we can only keep it that way if we have control of the decisions. ....Since becoming a part of Hume the services have declined and there seems to be less of a community spirit. Decisions are made by people who live in Broadmeadows and other areas. Broadmeadows is not the same as Sunbury and never will be. Why should we let their thinking process have a say in how we live. Its like saying that because Sunbury and Melton were both Satellite Cities we should be under one council. Melton is again different to Sunbury. Their house values are 15-20% lower than ours and they have the highest divorce rate in Victoria."</i></p> | S1       |
|  | <p><i>"Sunbury is not physically, geographically, historically, socially or philosophically aligned with Broadmeadows. It does not matter how you twist the reasoning; Broadmeadows is the primary component of the Hume City Council....."</i></p> <p><i>Sunbury is a community, not part of a corporation.....Please give us back our community. We can look after our own affairs with (sic) the rule of Broadmeadows. "</i></p>   | S2       |
|  | <p><i>"This submission is made on the premise that the best way to maintain the unique nature of Sunbury and the lifestyle of its residents into the future is for its retention within Hume City. Sunbury is recognized as a special place in its own right as well as within the rich tapestry that constitutes the City of Hume.</i></p> <p><i>The Hume Planning Scheme .....within which Sunbury is identified as a place having specific character and identity that needs to be carefully managed and preserved."</i></p>   | S3       |
|  | <p><i>"My only concern is that Sunbury retain its identity whilst still being incorporated with Hume City Council. The green belt around Sunbury should be maintained and developments for this area should be scrutinised to ensure our identity remains intact."</i></p>  | S4       |
|  | <p><i>"My reasons for this opinion are primarily that the semi-rural character of Sunbury and the aspirations of its residents are at odds with the balance of the Hume municipality.</i></p> <p><i>The City of Hume clearly either does not recognise this or does not care....."</i></p> <p><i>There is no transport link or corridor linking Sunbury with the balance of Hume.</i></p> <p><i>Sunbury is the Gateway to the winegrowing and tourist region of the Macedon Ranges. It has little or nothing in common with the balance of Hume."</i></p>   | S7       |
|  | <p><i>"We have had to endure lack of transport and ...entertainment facilities for the children which we were prepared to do for what we felt was a better lifestyle."</i></p>  | S 13     |
|  | <p><i>"Sunbury has and always will have different needs and culture to the Broadmeadows area and needs to be governed by local people who reside in the locality to look after the needs of the community and to preserve and maintain the country style of living."</i></p>  | S16      |
|  | <p><i>"Sunbury is isolated from Hume by its distinct geography and social composition; it is on a different train line, and a different highway, as well as having a semi-rural environment. We have more in common with the smaller semi-rural towns (such as Gisborne, Digger's Rest, Riddell's Creek, Romsey, Woodend and Lancefield) that use Sunbury as a shopping and service center, than with the general urban environment of Hume."</i></p>   | S23      |
|  | <p><i>"I believe that as Sunbury is 'Country Living, City Style' we should remain as that, Couctry."</i></p>  | CM<br>22 |



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|                   | <p><i>"We have already spoken of the Shire of Bulla logo "City Living – Country Style". There is no doubt that this "point of difference" to living in the suburbs has drawn many people to Sunbury....</i></p> <p><i>One of our primary reasons for wanting to protect our "point of difference" is the fact that a number of the City of Hume Metropolitan Councillors have shown by the decisions they have made in council, that they have no concern for the people of Sunbury and demonstrate that they have no empathy or basic understanding of the character and lifestyle we are working to develop and protect... and they have made no effort to find out exactly what we want. Basically, we are extremely concerned that the character and semi rural lifestyle will be destroyed if Sunbury remains part of Hume.</i></p> | S24<br>SCC |
|                   | <i>"Any cultural diversity would certainly be lost with a new Sunbury Shire as this area is overwhelmingly Anglo-Saxon in definition. I view this change as a negative, as the very wide-ranging racial, cultural and linguistic make-up of the municipality is one of its positives.</i>  | S25        |
|                   | <i>"It's also been put to me that people in Sunbury don't want to be associated with people who live in Broadmeadows. I find this rude and offensive.....Sunbury has its share of social problems; they are not that different from us. Even if you have neighbours you don't like that much, you all try to get along."</i>   | S29        |
|                   | <p><i>"Sunbury and its district is directly linked to the first settlement of Melbourne 1835 &amp; 1836. The physical shape of its landscape is virtually the same as it was back then.....</i></p> <p><i>There are over 400 heritage sites within the boundaries of the old Shire of Bulla and many still to be found,.... The Sunbury district, as you can see, is a very special place, and has the right to develop in its own character, and not fall foul to the soul destroying sameness of urban character that those who live elsewhere, and some here, would like to inflict on the Sunbury district."</i></p>   | S30        |
| <b>Governance</b> | <i>"Sunbury has a slightly positive bias in Councillor representation with respect to the comparative size between the local community and the city as a whole. The future growth in Sunbury will continue to be reflected in the future structure of Hume City Council."</i>  | S3         |
|                   | <i>"The ongoing allegations by the Sunbury Residents Association that the Broadmeadows based Council is unsympathetic to the needs of Sunbury are no different to the constant bickering that occurred in the former Shire of Bulla between Sunbury, Craigieburn and Greenvale ward councillors."</i>  | S6         |
|                   | <i>"With the higher number of councillors in Broadmeadows, Sunbury has been left out, we have lost the personal face to face contact."</i>   | S10        |
|                   | <i>"The City of Hume is spread across very different regions and the interests of the Councillors vary. They are pulling in different directions and are not as united as council members should be. I believe the council members for Sunbury are more in tune with the needs of Sunbury."</i>  | S12        |
|                   | <i>"If Sunbury separates, the proposal for 5 councillors should be according to ward boundaries and not have all 5 covering the whole area. Otherwise we could have all the councillors coming from the one street."</i>   | S15        |
|                   | <i>"An assessment needs to be done of the increased cost of running the new Sunbury Shire given the number of Councillors, Executive and administrative staff needed for the Shire to function properly."</i>  | S25        |

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|---------------------------------|---|------------|
| <b>Importance of green belt</b> | <i>"Community groups ....that complain to no end that Sunbury's Rural Character is under threat if they remain in Hume need to be exposed as a smoke screen..... As a resident of the Bulla area of more than fifty years I wish to convey that the rural aspect is still there in the surrounding area, but.....you cannot hold back progress and if you do then you will stagnate it. Leaving the rural area open to all the things that are undesirable and would detract from its qualities."</i> | S8         |
| <b>Impact of development</b>    | <i>"The infrastructure especially the industrial infrastructure developed in the Broadmeadows area...also benefits Sunbury. I doubt that Sunbury residents would want that infrastructure here."</i>  | S9         |
|                                 | <i>"We do not want to become a part of the surban crawl (sic) which we feel would happen under the city of Hume. It has already effected Sunbury with a great deal of land being carved up for housing developments and at the rate it is happening there Bulla could be next."</i>   | S11        |
|                                 | <i>"I don't want to be part of a Council that has plans to change the character of the Sunbury region or develop the precious green belt area."</i>   | S12        |
|                                 | <i>"Unfortunately, we now feel that we are in a position where we might loose (sic) this atmosphere as the Council of Hume does not seem to accept the importance of the green belt area which surrounds Sunbury."</i>  | S13        |
|                                 | <i>"The lovely drive into town from the Tullamarine Freeway/Sunbury road through two wineries on either side of the road is a great welcome to the town and this open area needs to be kept on all sides of Sunbury."</i>   |            |
|                                 | <i>"If Sunbury and district continues to be a part of Hume Council, its character and town planning will be continually under threat as we have seen in recent times, from wrong planning decisions made from the Hume Council, which has been born out by Independent tribunals which have ruled against their planning decisions."</i>  | S18        |
|                                 | <i>"We value our "green" surroundings and have worked hard to retain them rather than the "Build at any cost" approach demonstrated by many of the Metropolitan Councillors for Hume."</i>  | S24<br>SCC |

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| <b>Decline in services</b> | <i>" If Sunbury went out on a limb so to speak, our rates would increase whilst services we currently enjoy .....would deteriorate.....Since amalgamation, I have seen a better value for money existence within Council....."</i>  | S4  |
|                            | <i>"I am satisfied with the current level of service provided.... And believe funding is spread fairly and equitably across the municipality."</i>  | S6  |
|                            | <i>" As far as I can ascertain I have not benefited from being a part of the City of Hume. I have seen nothing to indicate to me that the ratepayers are being provided with satisfactory facilities to cater for their needs or those of their children. Money may be spent but I can't see much being done in Sunbury."</i>   | S12 |
|                            | <i>"We can not help but notice the decline in services in the area since Hume took over with gardens not attended to and parks left unmown. I have driven through the Goonawarra Estate a number of times and the area is in a very poor condition with mowing urgently required and trees needing attention with broken limbs left and papers on nature strips. Parking is becoming a problem in the township and continued increase of subdivisions will see this get worse."</i> | S13 |

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|  | <i>"As part of Hume Sunbury is at the end of the municipality and seems to receive the least services."</i>  | S14  |
|  | <i>"The current council from my point of view have a poor record in protecting our environment whereas in the former Bulla days this was a priority as was the cleaning of all public facilities which have also greatly declined."</i>  | S15  |
|  | <i>"The City of Hume has a very large area to service and because the Council is bigger it doesn't necessarily translate to better services.....In the council environment the situation can be worse and hence a slower decision and reaction process occurs. A more locally based council of a smaller size could address local issues more efficiently."</i>  |      |
|  | <i>"Since amalgamation of Sunbury into Hume City there has been a steady (sic) selling off of council resources based in the Sunbury area. During this time there has been little spending in the Sunbury area."</i>   | S17  |
|  | <i>"Further evidence of this is that the council pound has gone to Whittlesea, which is of no absolute use to the people of Sunbury."</i>  | S20  |
|  | <i>"When Sunbury was under the old Shire of Bulla many of the local businesses enjoyed the opportunity of being a supplier of goods and/or services to the Shire.<br/>Not any more – a significant amount, if all, of the business has been lost to Sunbury Traders."</i>  | S 24 |
|  | <i>"It doesn't really make sense to me why this idea is being put forward. Sunbury seems to be doing quite well. I can't notice any major problems with the services they have.<br/><br/>Here in Gladstone Park, we don't have a public swimming pool. Claiming that they don't get any services or that our end of the Council gets the most favours is nonsense."</i>  | S28  |
|  | <i>"I've heard that Sunbury residents claim that our end of the Council gets all the services and benefits while they receive nothing. Yet at least they have a library."</i>  | S29  |
|  | <i>"Most of the equipment for road maintenance and the like is housed in Campbellfield and is monopolised for use in major developments like at Roxborough Park and Craigieburn. The cost to transport it to Sunbury must be quite high, as it doesn't seem to get here very often. We have also heard rumours that the Sunbury Shire Offices are to be closed. This means that all of our dealings with council must be done at Broadmeadows, which is a 40-minute drive from here. We feel this is unacceptable."</i>        | S34  |
|  | <i>"The distance between Sunbury and Broadmeadows is significant and could be an issue to some people or groups. But I believe the council has done (and continues to do) a great job in minimising this difficulty, and strives to improve service requirements to all sections of the city. Many concerns I heard at the hearing were endemic to greater Melbourne and are the result of State Government policy, and not the aptitude or ability of an individual council to perform its obligations to its community."</i> | S36  |
|  | <i>"Prior to 'Amalgamation', Sunbury was a lovely place! – Not-So" now – The Council services have deteriorated severely since "Amalgamation"."</i>  | CM8  |

