

Clutha Connect

Clutha's Future - Local Government Amalgamation Survey Results

Jun 02, 2026 - Jul 01, 2026

Project: Local Government Amalgamation

Form: Clutha's Future - Local Government Amalgamation Survey

Tool Type: Form

Activity ID: 22

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Filter By: No filters applied.

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Bruce-Waiholo

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

I suggest that one main Otago Unitary Council sits in Dunedin; governs the districts and coordinates the environmental, public transport, etc, roles of the current ORC for the whole Otago region. Of course, district specific aspects for these important areas of work would need to be devolved to the local districts, who would need resources to achieve the work required.

The vital success (of One Unitary Council), to enable the best possible outcomes (on many fronts), is to balance the representation both from the widespread nature of our rural populations and the tighter density of urban populations across the current five district/city councils. When it comes to representation on the Otago-wide unitary council, an equitable, fair ratio for this exercise must consider the demographics of servicing the widespread nature of rural communities.

I can see, in time, it would bring cohesion, efficiencies and effectiveness and ultimately the best possible outcomes for all Otago people.

Lots of debates will be needed to get that right for the Otago people.

I would like to see the local area community representation for Clutha kept as it is within the district, but for fairness and equity - please remove the existing Community Board structures (available only to some areas currently). Or increase their numbers so all ratepayers and residents are treated equally.

I think we can perform well as the district that we are. Clutha District 'Board' that would sit under the 'umbrella' of the Otago Unitary Council, with the Mayor and CE as members on that Unitary Council.

We should keep the new/current 'Ward boundaries' structure and "council" member numbers.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

There would be future employment opportunities in Clutha district to carry out the devolved environment and public services responsibilities.

Working in partnership on some projects that cross district and city boundaries currently.

Efficiency improvements in resourcing project works and infrastructure work especially around the three waters and Capital improvements portfolios.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Biggest concerns that we don't put our future focused and sustainability focused glasses on and see the positives in this amalgamation.

Take your time!

Don't rush in - NO HEAD START needed by August 9th.

Give new Council members a chance to get their feet under the table.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Please consider Not putting in the HEAD START aspect of what's on offer from the government!!!! Especially so close to a National election.

It doesn't mean you put the amalgamation work on the shelf ---- it gives you time to settle in as a new CDC and consider wisely the path to take later in 2027.

The legislation that will govern what must occur in 2028 isn't even done yet.

" The Government has advised that councils can submit outline proposals through the Head Start pathway during 2026.

Legislation supporting the reforms is expected to be introduced in 2027.
Implementation is anticipated to begin in 2028, with transitional governance arrangements expected to be in place following the 2028 local elections.
The exact timing will depend on legislation and decisions made by the Government".

Take a considered approach. Focus on the now stuff and wait for the 2028 government of the day to provide you with all the facts for decision making on this work.

Response No:
2

Contribution ID: 2352

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 30, 2026, 03:07 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Clinton-Clydevale

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

keeping local services

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

absolutely none

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

losing control of our services

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

We need to ensure that:

- a strong rural focus remains represented
 - infrastructure continues to be maintained and improved. (roading, water schemes, footpaths, library etc)
 - there continues to be a local council presence - customer service & workers where issues etc can be dealt with face to face with people who have a local knowledge and 'know-how'.
 - any 'clutha' assets/investments are ring fenced
- I'm unable to comment on what local community representation could look like as I don't know the options you're considering - possibly a community board will need to be established

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

possibly sharing of knowledge and skills and problem solving

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

I'm concerned for the district of Clutha losing a layer of leadership and management skills as management staff are made redundant or leave town for other jobs.
I'm concerned about the loss of institutional knowledge and local understanding eg the history and reasonings behind decisions that have been made.
I'm worried that our rural infrastructure (eg roading) will become neglected and deteriorate.
I'm very concerned that Dunedin and ORC are in the options being considered. They both appear to be dysfunctional and will have limited understanding / empathy for rural concerns.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

I'm very concerned that CDC is considering amalgamation with Dunedin and Otago Regional Council - We will just be swallowed up with limited representation and councillors with no understanding or interest in the rural issues we face. We already see that with the Regional Council.
I am also concerned that CDC is considering joining with Waitaki - with no joint boundaries, it is difficult to see how we can work together
I would like the Council to try and make something happen with Gore who are more affiliated to our rural outlook. It's very disappointing that the Council have not kept ratepayers better informed as to the options being considered in amalgamating. Gore and Southland Councils have been very proactive in reporting the options they are looking at while Clutha Council has had very limited media presence. Council need to make some genuine efforts to get information out there via printed media and online.
Without knowing the reasons for choosing (or not choosing) various Councils, it's very hard to give informed opinion. I would strongly urge you to ensure the pros and cons of each option is clearly outlined to ratepayers when you finally put it out for consultation

Response No:
4

Contribution ID: 2350

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 30, 2026, 11:19 AM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

West Otago

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Spending in the most needed areas
Ease in contact of different departments

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Less money spent on the top tier of councils ie Cheif executives downwards

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

We see kess being spent in and around Clutga in favor of other areas

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Catlins

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

I think that making sure the smaller, rural communities, aren't forgotten or left behind if councils are amalgamated. Making sure that they are still heard and seen. Infrastructure is bad enough at the moment that connecting with a bigger council might make it even worse off, trying to fix roads and bridges is hard.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

More rate payers to be able to boost our infrastructure and budgets. Being able to do more. Rates won't be so bad. Improvements in the communities.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

That it may affect my livelihood. That no one will want us because of the large area we cover versus the amount of tax payers we have. We have a large amount of roads. We will lose our voices and decisions will get made for us without our input. There won't be any local voices in the amalgamated council. If we were with Dunedin, we will get city problems affecting us. If we were with Queenstown, it's far away. We're kind of in the middle of all of these council but they're still far away from us.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
6

Contribution ID: 2348

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 30, 2026, 09:40 AM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

I worry that the little rural areas will be underfunded and not cared about if we get absorbed by a bigger council with bigger township

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

More ratepayers to area

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

I worry that the little rural areas will be underfunded and not cared about if we get absorbed by a bigger council with bigger town.

It's hard enough to get basic infrastructure fixed now (ie the Clydevale bridge), with an even bigger area, I feel places and issues like this will be forgotten.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
7

Contribution ID: 2347

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 30, 2026, 09:08 AM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Bruce-Waiholo

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Getting value for money and stopping huge rates increases

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Lower rates

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

West Otago

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

The maintenance of our rural assets and services.
I feel there would still have to be a councilor for each ward.
Otherwise areas like West Otago would be forgotten about.
But no doubt they would have no problem taking our rates

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

The only benefit would be some costs savings with economies of scale.
But what cost would that be to our outlying areas in terms of maintenance of assets?

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

That our rates would get gobbled up in the city on wasteful projects.
We would end up with inferior services and our assets would slowly fall to bits.
Dunedin CC doesn't have a very good track record financially, as some of the councilors are absolute Muppets.
I think we would be swallowed up by the machine, just for our money.
DCC have got major issues ahead of them. South Dunedin being a prime example.....so they will be pushing for the amalgamation

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

That the region isn't overlooked in funding and infrastructure for areas with larger population size and issues. Also that rate rises are contained to an acceptable level for residents. Community representation needs to be balanced, rational and exclude egos, with the focus on representing residents. Not being afraid to make difficult decisions and defer projects that are nice to have vs need.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Sharing of knowledge & expertise.
Cost saving benefits with a reduction in overhead costs associated with staffing etc.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Being lost in the conversation at the expense of larger areas, particularly if we merge with Dunedin City.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
10

Contribution ID: 2344

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 29, 2026, 09:44 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Lawrence-Tuapeka

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Catlins

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Whatever happens going to be a shit fest with everyone climbing all over each other to try and get a better position. I've got no idea what community representation will look like but ultimately many areas will have ineffective representation and no voice.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

There will be no rate reduction just another era of empire building more employees and f..k all achieved. Our environment will suffer if management of what is now the ORC is taken over by the mayors. Just look at Clutha's almost 30% rate increase for urban folk. My solution ORC becomes the leader of any unitary authority.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

2

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Best get on with it. We're living with Cadogan and a decade of deficit and borrowing. Too many idiots voted him back in. Live with it!! I've advocated for amalgamation over the last decade of submissions to council. Soon to be tenants on our own properties. Go with Southland or Otago is going to be the biggest choice to make. Elected representatives or mayors making this decision without a mandate, community vote or referendum is questionable.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

The ORC is the entity who covers all of Otago so should be the organization to lead any new entity. Poor leadership from central government dictating process even they have no idea of its outcome. Keep your hands off Port Otago use its dividend for catchment and environmental protection not a piggy bank

Response No:
12

Contribution ID: 2342

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 29, 2026, 05:35 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

West Otago

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Small communities will loose all the rates money will go to the bigger communities

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

No benifits at all . The small communities will be shut down

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Lack of maintenance an services

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Having recently purchased a property in a small community that has so much potential but it is lacking in services .

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Bruce-Waiholo

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Elected Community boards which have local experience and knowledge would take the place of councils, the elected chair person of each community board would sit on a Regional council, The Regional council would be chaired by an elected person from the Region, The elected person would be called a Mayor or Senator ? A Council manager would be employed to oversee the TOTAL council operation which will oversee the council operational reports strategically placed around the region. The Council manager is employed by and RESPONSIBLE to the elected community board and chair person.

Cities above 50,000? population would be separate, Although Cities have the same needs as rural communities their infrastructure as regards population per square kilometer is vastly different and requires a different formula.,

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Keeping costs down , More efficiency between rural communities and their service industries, Less Councilors and and reduction of office staff, Opportunity to employ professional staff to oversee major operations, Less need to contract out work, No need to employ consultants,

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

As long as we have good community boards similar to Tuapeka and West Otago I am certain the new system will work,
There will always be issues, As long as the Elected members have a flexible, mature attitude , that is democracy.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

The existing system should have worked, however my progressed opinion was that the ORC became dictatorial and thought most rate payers and district councils inferior.
A Regional council fineing a district council who were both funded by the same ratepayers for a machinery malfunction or human error has to be a sick joke.
Treaty of Waitangi is a Government issue and therefore the Regional Councils must comply, their directives must be consistent.

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

West Otago

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Rural representation with a long term sustainable spending on core infrastructure. We dont loose out on the like of port otago and regional infrastructure that should be offsetting council costs more

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

the chance to have more bespoke rules on the likes of building and farmi g to cut down the consenting requirements while still having good outcomes

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Where is better southland or central otago? I dont want to farm under southland land use rules but realistically as a Tapanui resident Gore makes far more sense on some aspects. Losing our local voice depending where the amalgamation goes

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Dont rush this, yes the government has set a deadline but its bloody hard to wind back a rushed decision. This is the next two generations we are deciding on

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

A Southern Amalgamation can only be effective if community representation (minimum acceptance) is modelled in a structured on what protects our voices, rural or urban, service levels and importantly democratic accountability.

Example: for small rural communities, a single large council will only work if rural areas are not overlooked or overridden by larger amalgamations such as Dunedin or Invercargill. Representation needs to be capped for urban seats to prevent a majority over rural representation. Must have guaranteed rural seats/representation.

Example: Clutha's regulatory, infrastructure and rural services differ noticeably from Dunedin's urban priorities.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Amalgamation is cheaper on paper but weakens and distances voices for rural places (again example above Balclutha) by dominant urban options and decisions.

The overall focus should be to protect the community, provide a service for the community and to be accountable for the community.

He aha te mea nui o te au - he tangata, he tangata, he tangata.

What is the most important thing in the world? It is people, it is people, it is people.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Champion empowering Community Boards, in making real decisions, not in becoming advisories. Aiming to keep day to day decisions close to those who live, work and those that want to thrive in their own communities. Rural communities are a small slice of a much bigger pie (to prevent this community boards and rural representation would need to purposefully be strengthened).

A single point or place of service for an amalgamated council will be chaotic for service turnaround times, say if they are run from Dunedin or Invercargill. The accessibility will be cut off and for Clutha, the rural service quality will decline.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Amalgamation will only work if:

1. Local voices are genuinely protected, making promises is not enough.
2. Funding and service levels are fixed. Otherwise in the transition local rates/funding changes gains will be painful.
3. Who is accountable? who to call? this will cause confusion.
4. Mayors will become regional governors if regional councils are removed. This means it will enable "a mayor" to undertake or dominate transport decisions as well as environmental ones.
5. Urban priorities will dominate rural priorities, reflecting in underfunding issues.

The reality will be; small communities lose their identity when they are absorbed into mega councils.

Response No:
16

Contribution ID: 2338

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 29, 2026, 01:41 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

Other (please explain below): Keep what we have

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

I don't believe we would have any were a little district up against bigger players

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

I don't see any benefits, I believe we will lose our resources or they will be too expensive to use, eg pools ,parks ,libraries

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Losing our services,losing who we are ,
And paying more for less

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

I think we should have gone with 3 waters got rid of the ORC kept our council and keep our rates down.

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Catlins

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

That we retain or increase local representation to ensure understanding of local issues.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Administration costs may decrease.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Our belief is that council services and staff are already stretched, and that issues such as water catchment quality, biodiversity conservation and pest species management will suffer under amalgamation. We are hoping that all the regional council staff with their years of experienced are retained under the new system.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

We understand that this decision has been forced onto councils by central government, and we do not agree with it.

Response No:
18

Contribution ID: 2336

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 29, 2026, 12:00 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Cost of rates, services being correct and to industry standards, no wasteful spending.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Having more eyes on the work that is happening in the council. Need more accountability.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

2

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

More rate payers = more money. If we amalgamate into a rural solution, we increase our area and infrastructure 10 fold, but do not increase the number of payers enough to cover this. The reason our rates are out of control is because we are rural - let's not compound this issue!!!

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Keeping the local services running, having a voice, and a focus on community. Proof is in the pudding, ie stuff gets done well, efficiently and wasteful spending is eliminated.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

None, if merged with a larger city council, I have dealt with these for several years and there is nothing but wasted dollars and bureaucratic clap trap every you look.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Loss of local identity and ability to get things done.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

If you have no choice about amalgamation then focus on rural, and then do it well, engineering is one of your major costs, so stop using expensive consultants who have no accountability and build a strong engineering function so that ratepayers money goes further. (back to the future kind of thing as once upon a time we did this well)

Response No:
20

Contribution ID: 2334

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 29, 2026, 10:21 AM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

To maintain a local representative group to have a say on the districts problems so we don't get forgotten and became a declining aera

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Lower rates and up keep of well used facilities in all areas

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Losing control of our assets and loss of being to maintain important structures ie: flood protection and water quality

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Rates and water accounts increasing more.

We won't have many councillors to vote for things that are important to our area.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Savings with system costs and staffing.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

My biggest concern is that our ratepayers won't be heard and we may not get the services we currently do. DCC appears very dysfunctional and it would be a shame to be amalgamated with them.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Ideally it would be good to amalgamate with Gore and Southland as they are rural communities that we work closely with already.

Response No:
22

Contribution ID: 2332

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 29, 2026, 08:51 AM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Lawrence-Tuapeka

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Core services retained to high standard and provided as cost efficient as possible to ratepayers.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Hopefully a reduction in the levels of staff required to operate creating more efficiency in keeping costs down.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Not sure

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Bruce-Waihola

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

The smaller rural communities that currently have no waste, water, rubbish removal, letter boxes or a decent road miss out in all decisions as we are small and rural.

A rural focused unitary council would consider these areas

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

More savings and more input.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Lack of representation for the smaller rural communities

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
24

Contribution ID: 2330

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 29, 2026, 06:57 AM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

West Otago

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Losing our identity with funds wasted in other places

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

There is definitely a bigger rate base for projects but sometimes areas miss out especially if one area is deep in debt

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

This happened when I lived in Australia. Our council had a surplus of money and was running fine, the council we amalgamated with was virtually bankrupt, they took all our funds and we definitely got shafted. So I'm not a fan

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
25

Contribution ID: 2329

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 29, 2026, 05:25 AM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Milton

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Looking after our smaller rural communities as well.. And not being the after thought when disasters happen or pay huge rates with no benefits.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

More opportunities for our town. Have more of a say in where rate payers money is spent and how.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

We will never get a say in what our smaller communities need. We will have to compete with the bigger cities like Dunedin.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

I'm opposed to amalgamation for Clutha District.

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Lawrence-Tuapeka

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Amalgamation would mean that local needs go unnoticed. Local governance is vital to ensure that the problems and issues facing each community gets a solution that fits its specific community.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

None, I'm wholly against amalgamation.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Individual communities will lose important services and quality of service. A big central council simply cannot know the problems each individual community is facing, and won't have the people on staff to deal with all the problems anyway.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

The question on this survey about how important it is to "retain its local identity" is confusing to me. Local identity is not important to me personally, but local support is vital. A big amalgamated council is necessarily detached from the daily realities of far-away communities, and naturally most attention and funding will gravitate toward the communities where there are lots of people. Small communities especially stand to suffer from amalgamation. It's a mistake to amalgamate, I don't believe it should happen, I don't believe this region can afford to lose strong local governance.

Response No:
27

Contribution ID: 2327

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 28, 2026, 09:55 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

I am a Clutha District ratepayer living out of the district

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Existing community boards to remain, with those boards having a say in where there rate revenue is spent

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Reduced rates
Flat fees for services - more rate payers can spread the load for the services provided
Is there a need for district councils and regional councils?

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

getting swallowed by by the bigger centres - loosing the local voice and representation

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

The amount of services will be reduced

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

The total amount of staff employed by each council and the number of councillor's will be reduced. Also, there should only be 1 executive.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

We will be treated as a poor cousin and our rate money will be diverted to the biggest council

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

I am totally against any Amalgamation

Response No:
29

Contribution ID: 2325

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 28, 2026, 04:22 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Catlins

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Accountability

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Accountability transparency

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Lawrence-Tuapeka

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

Other (please explain below): An Otago wide unitary council should include the Lakes District , but with the express condition that central government financial support is provided. This could be a visitor bed levy or similar and must come back to the region for infrastructure development and maintenance.

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

That communities don't become invisible through scale , and neither should the loudest receive the most attention. Equity in efficient service delivery with less cost than the status quo has to be the primary objective. The best representative for a community will be a person who understands the strengths and challenges of not only their own communities but also has empathy with other communities in the amalgamated area. The best representative for my community could be a person who doesn't come from within the local area.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

1. More efficient administration
2. Less cost in the provision of services resulting from reduced staff, less elected representatives, more leverage in contract tenders, reduced parochial decision making

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

3

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

I don't have any , provided certain safeguards ,e.g. equitable formula for rating calculations, are put in place.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Explore the idea of all new amalgamated authorities having an independently appointed member. This person would have business and community acumen , and act as a conciliator/advisor to ensure the objectives of the new authority aren't compromised.

Response No:
31

Contribution ID: 2323

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 28, 2026, 10:33 AM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Catlins

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Save money

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
32

Contribution ID: 2322

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 28, 2026, 10:07 AM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Kaitangata-Matau

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

Other (please explain below): Discontinue the current amalgamation arrangement . The costs of the stuctures built in balclutha are not sustainable. Council relying on ratepayers fundraising and good wil to do things in there own communities. good will

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

No benefit if it ends up looking like the last amalgamation.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Same as the current situation, Can't make decision with the amount of people and then need consultants while collecting the money.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Community spirit was discontinued after the last amalgamation. Now clutha cannot sustain the current situation. Go back to when all communities supported each other and looked after there own.

Response No:
33

Contribution ID: 2321

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 28, 2026, 09:50 AM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Lawrence-Tuapeka

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

That small communities still have a voice and representation. That rural issue are valued and addressed

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Cost efficiency, hopefully.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

That the Clutha district will be pushed aside for projects in the larger city areas such as Dunedin and Queenstown lakes areas. The rural heartland needs to thrive for NZ to thrive.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
34

Contribution ID: 2320

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 28, 2026, 07:40 AM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Having a strong voice and representation on the Council.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

I believe this would not benefit the Clutha District. Bigger is not better. Rural area have different needs to urban areas / cities

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

That we would be swallowed up and lose our voice. We need a local Council who understands the needs of our District

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

I think amalgamation would be detrimental to the Clutha District.

Response No:
35

Contribution ID: 2319

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 28, 2026, 06:53 AM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Lawrence-Tuapeka

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Our community of people matters most. Acknowledgement, support, reducing rates to make lives easier when everything is getting more expensive. Regular services of care more available

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Reduced rates rather than paying two councils

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

We just become another number and are forgotten for the cool town we are

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
36

Contribution ID: 2318

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 28, 2026, 02:17 AM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Equal representation of councillors per capita of each area before amalgamation

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

None

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Will lose our voice and identity

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Amalgamation won't have any advantages for the Clutha district will just be part of a bigger council with even more costs etc

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Lawrence-Tuapeka

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Good representation with overall local knowledge and business sense - transparency on spending - communication that fits the cause. We can't have Wellington make a decision for Lawrence with no idea where that is and so on

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

I'm not sure amalgamation into a National split is going to be a good fit for rural Nz. We will get lost amongst the urban masses but be expected to fund a lot

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Rural nz is very different and requires a different approach. My concerns are will we pay Dunedin rates for example- will rural nz be the cash cow for urban nz and the funds not be distributed and used appropriately eg our rural roads are shocking but it seems there is always progress being made in town -the squeeze is already on the rural sector even though things look good from the outside. There are real people hard working people amongst us that deserve a voice - there are more of them than us where does that leave the minority

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
38

Contribution ID: 2316

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 27, 2026, 07:23 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

What matters most? Local representation on issues affecting the local wards.
Local community representation has to have the power and provisions to act in the best interest of their wards.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Tourism, marketing

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Higher rates
Poor local representation
Low maintenance on rural roads.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
39

Contribution ID: 2315

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 27, 2026, 07:18 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

3

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
40

Contribution ID: 2314

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 27, 2026, 05:30 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Catlins

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

Other (please explain below): Clutha district council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Things not being done or people being heard

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Not really sure if bigger is better

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

The clutha district already covers a large area. I think some communities will miss due to unrepresentation

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

I don't think we should we need to focus on our own area

Response No:
41

Contribution ID: 2313

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 27, 2026, 04:40 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Reduce or limit the annual rates rises to Cpi or less...

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Reduced rates rises

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

3

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Loss of local services....and paying for other councils debt...

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

The under representation Balclutha would gain by being amalgamated with places such as Dunedin Cromwell Wānaka and potentially Queenstown . Just another identity to skim money from rates take and up running costs . There would be absolutely no accountability.
Dunedin would benefit with more to pay for South Dunedin fiasco.
It's not mpossible to have Clutha District Council listen , acknowledge and act on what ratepayers want . Case in point Milton swimming pool and all the other feel good community wellness projects overs basic needs services .

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Why it's not as if anything happens and councils do anything other than lip service
Just look at Waitaki last week over rates .
Councils are to focused on appeasing local governments before rate payers.
It's already to late outcome is pre determined
Just like the amalgamation comes first in this survey it's already swayed towards it's going ahead .
Just nothing more than lip service and box ticking for government, so you can take the
easy way out and say people had there say

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Milton

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

My concern that if the Clutha District Council amalgamated with city councils we would lose alot of say and voting power with our sparse population

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Hopefully lower admin cost and better bargaining power.
PS not sure how well that has worked in Auckland to date

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

4

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

That we would lose control of spending and work allocation in the Clutha District

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Amalgamation is meant to save cost and improve efficiencies but that does not always seem to be the case.

Response No:
44

Contribution ID: 2310

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 27, 2026, 02:56 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Lawrence-Tuapeka

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

For local communities to feel connected to their council it needs to have local representatives and a council that is aware of the local issues. The bigger and more distant a council the less this happens

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

I suspect there might be more funds but not sure if the spread would be fairly distributed

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

As above, anonymity and people distanced from local democracy

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Bruce-Waihola

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

User pays, low rates and a council that works for the rate payers not the rate payers working for the council

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Lower rates shared resources

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

3

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

More over heads

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Start working for the rate payers and listen to what we have to say, that why your in that position

Response No:
46

Contribution ID: 2308

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 27, 2026, 12:00 PM

Q1

Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2

Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3

What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

I think it's important that our unique and widespread communities continue to be represented and services for what they are, proudly rural and tight-knit. We can't be grouped in with big cities, it's not who we are.

Q4

What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

More access to resources and cost spreading.

Q5

How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6

What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

If we amalgamated with the wrong districts our voices will be diluted beneath the cities, who will always be the priority. We are better to join with other similar councils with similar towns and populations, like Gore.

Q7

Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
47

Contribution ID: 2307

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 26, 2026, 09:50 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Milton

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

hopefully lowering of rates, but considering that most councils within the otago region have huge amounts of debt, that will be doubtful, hopefully better roading

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

reduced debt , lower rates

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

increased rates, roading network gets worse,. we lose our voice and or other regions get all the money for upgrades esp on roading. i wont want us to lose what we have here and become the poor cousin to the big city, and or the tourists regions. it may not be as great an idea that the government has made out to be

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
48

Contribution ID: 2306

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 26, 2026, 06:12 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

Other (please explain below): Southland unity we have more in common with a more rural area

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Not sure but maybe something like a community group or committee led by one of the new councillors so our voice doesn't get lost

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Don't see any

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Losing our voice

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Lawrence-Tuapeka

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

Other (please explain below): Existing arrangements

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

The likelihood of costs continuing to rise, as happened in Auckland following the Super City merger. The work still needs doing, and any merged authority will take years (with significant expense) to rearrange how services are delivered. It will not be an easy fix. Local Council's are doing a great job already, despite the continuous pressure being placed on them by Central Government. The benefits will be minimal, and we will be paying the additional costs for years to come.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

None.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

The Clutha District is huge - just try driving from Taieri Mouth to Heriot for example. Trying to understand and address the various issues facing local communities in this large area is challenging enough as it is. Making the Local Government area larger would just exacerbate this further. The loss of local decision-making is critical, and the ability of people to access their local representative would likely be further eroded.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Bad idea to fix a problem that doesn't exist.

Response No:
50

Contribution ID: 2304

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 26, 2026, 02:33 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Keeping things as they are. Keeping good council/community relationships intact. Looking after our local areas needs urban & rural - being a unique mix of both

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

lower rates, better budget for community events etc

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

loss of employment, jobs, also that Balclutha will lose its identity, community/council relationships lost

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
51

Contribution ID: 2303

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 26, 2026, 02:01 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Catlins

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

loseing our rural identity

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

may be rates would fall keeping the country in the country not city
working with like minded councils to better our districts

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

it would be swallowed by dunedin or simaular and nothing would happen in the clutha district
we will have no say going forward

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Care for the local environment and support of initiatives needed to help communities respond to changing climate. Inspiring community ownership and involvement in these initiatives.

Maintaining and improving critical local infrastructure.

Real opportunities for local youth, jobs and youth based activities.

Support for those who are struggling mentally and financially.

Sensitive care and support for those who are less able/elderly.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Strength in numbers.

Perhaps a reduction in costs with better use of tech

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Difficulty in maintaining our local voice.

We will need strong representation to ensure the needs of our communities are addressed.

Such big change done correctly and with enthusiasm could be very beneficial. Without local buy in it will be very difficult and could lead to chaos.

The main thing we need is for this to be done properly, with careful consideration, identification of obstacles and clear steps to minimize or overcome them. Failure to do so will be enormously detrimental to our districts future. I appreciate this survey is an attempt to do that.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Milton

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Shared infrastructure and clear and well structured management system across the whole amalgamated area with a fairer more uniform rates system.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Good use of resources, the sharing of good practice.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Disruption. Financial waste due to the process of amalgamation.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

I would like to see any amalgamation include a process which includes an amalgamation wide rethink and better system for the protection of wildlife, especially coastal wildlife.

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Lawrence-Tuapeka

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Still having district access to council services through our library/service centres. This will become even more important if we amalgamation as lical staff know their communities and can help with delivery of new information, systems and be the friendly, approachable face of any new entity.
We need to retain AT LEAST what we already have, if not provide more of this community-focused outreach. (Waihola needs a council office due to its growth). Connection in our communities has a proven track record of value and success and retaining/establishing more outreach services will bring huge value this new entity, value it doesn't even realise is available to it yet.
Local representation looks like our lical councillors spending time in these outreach e cities each week to be available to the people and to use zoom facilities for meetings to save money in travel costs. It looks like staff who live in outreach districts being able to work remotely from these hubs to save travel costs and give them a better footing in their communities.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

I would expect SIGNIFICANT rates saving, better, easier, simpler systems, communication improvement and efficiencies and more transparency in council decision-making and implementation.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

- Loss of particular community cohesion
- Loss of personalised contact and touch with council/outreach staff/councillors
- Lack of understanding of a district's history and personality or character
- Less service from our council staff
- Contractors who are out of touch with a community's needs

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

My worry is always that we will end up with less for more costs.

I would rather see council employ people who live in their districts at every level and particularly for township landscaping/Greenpeace management and upkeep. We want people with skin in the game who live in and care about their community's presentation. Lease all the equipment for them if owning too much infrastructure is a concern, but let's have people working for council, working IN their communities to retain a sense of ownership and pride and connectedness.

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

I am a Clutha District ratepayer living out of the district

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Water and roading.

Stop with all the extra's and get the basics correct first.

Listen to what is wanted by the community - Milton swimming pool is a great example of community being ignored.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Better coordination of water use, road repairs etc.

Better use of money

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

3

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Farmers wont be listened too.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Surely amalgamation would improve the quality of water and services. Too much time and money spent on H&S and DEI.

What has either of these improved for your average ratepayer.

Response No:
56

Contribution ID: 2298

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 26, 2026, 11:46 AM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Bruce-Waiholo

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
57

Contribution ID: 2297

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 26, 2026, 11:10 AM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Bruce-Waihola

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Well get lost and won't be a prority

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

None for us

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

We will be forgotten about an ND ignored

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Lawrence-Tuapeka

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Efficient delivery of services is most important but followed by the council staff and elected members understanding life in a rural area/small town

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Improved efficiency and effectiveness, better bargaining position for the council with contractors and other suppliers. Ability to attract more skilled staff

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

3

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Being dominated by an urban area such as Dunedin or QTL

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Clutha is already a LA without a strong identity- there is very strong sub area identities like Tuapeka, West Otago etc if these can be retained in a larger body I think people will be fairly happy with an amalgamated LA. Of course any issues arising in the years after amalgamation will be blamed on the amalgamation!

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Ensuring current Clutha district residents continue to get the same or better quality of services from the new entity. Clutha district is continued to be seen as a separate geographical area and is marketed as such by tourism and business development agencies.
Retaining service centres, i-sites in current form. I dont think ratepayers would care if backoffice functions were centralised as long as services remain at a high level or improve over time

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Cost savings.
Political lobbying power increased.
More attention from Central government

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Loss of local representation
Loss of service centres and these being replaced by a call centre staffed by people with poor local knowledge.
Deprioritisation of works.
Overall budget reductions
Further for public to travel for public council meetings (sitting in on meetings, making submissions etc)
Loss of identity

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

I would not like the new council assume that they have a large marketing budget. The areas that would potentially come together to make up the new council all have unique tourism and other marketing requirements.
I would like to see the new council get a reputation of being responsible stewards of public money and immediately deprioritise any 'glamour' projects, in favour of maintenance and repairs. New works in aid of economic growth should be given priority over any other new project.
I would like the new council to see themselves as servants of the inhabitants of the new district, be easy to deal with, attentive to needs and responsible stewards of the natural environment. Not support growth at any cost and recognise there is economic and social value in protecting the environment.

Response No:
60

Contribution ID: 2294

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 26, 2026, 07:56 AM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Catlins

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Local views are represented, local voice

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
61

Contribution ID: 2293

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 26, 2026, 02:36 AM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

I am a Clutha District ratepayer living out of the district

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

What matters most is that all services are retained and maintained at a high standard.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

I would expect to see an improvement in infrastructure management.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

The old excuse of population based funding will be used to prioritize needs, so get ready for down graded and loss of services to the Clutha area.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

I'm not opposed to change if it guarantees an improvement!!

Response No:
62

Contribution ID: 2292

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 25, 2026, 10:14 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Bruce-Waiholo

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Cheaper rates

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Clutha do a great job, business as usual

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Higher rates

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Bruce-Waiholo

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

Other (please explain below): Clutha divided between Southland and Otago

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Imo Clutha is too wide an area, to be supported by such a small population. It should be divided between Southland and Dunedin Council. Demographics will need to be studied to decide where new boundaries should be.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Understructure costs will be spread out over larger population. ie. Many hands make light work. And many pennies make pounds. The scales of economy are always better with larger supporting populations , funding and resourcing.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

4

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Représentation and demographic boundaries needs to be fully considered.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

At the end of the day, the devil is in the detail. However clearly Clutha cannot afford to go it alone.. which means residents businesses and services etc will suffer.

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

A clear understanding of the needs of a rural community and them not being overlooked.
Ensuring community voices are heard
Retaining local identity
Being able to manage community assets

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Reduced costs
Rates reduced.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Being overlooked if amalgamating with a city that doesn't take into account a larger geographical area (and all the costs that entails, re. roading, water services) but less people.
Being amalgamated with a larger urban city that doesn't understand rural issues.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
65

Contribution ID: 2289

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 25, 2026, 08:49 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Bruce-Waiholo

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

Other (please explain below): Don't know what options mean

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

I don't know as I don't know the benefits or costs of both options!

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Lower rates better services @

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

3

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

We workers pay yhe costs whilst farmers reap the benefits

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
66

Contribution ID: 2288

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 25, 2026, 08:15 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Sub committee that represent Clutha District , within Otago Council.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Regular rate process, with fare spending across the district, that is decided in a fair and transparent process.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Keeping the districts identity.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Not losing our ratepayers dollars to buoying up projects that are benefiting other areas, leaving Clutha District to stagnate.

Concerned we would lose the power to forward projects that benefit those living in our District, and be lacking in investment which ensures we remain a viable home to current and new families, as well as business

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Streamlined processes, better "buying power", being able to draw on others expertise and cutting down on thr current inflated Council staffing levels. Reduced rate costs as

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Previously mentioned above

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

I would prefer a Southern, rural amalgamation as feel we have more in common when it comes to values, demographic, industry etc, than looking north to Dunedin. Would rather we amalgamte with Gore etc

Response No:
68

Contribution ID: 2286

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 25, 2026, 07:36 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Lawrence-Tuapeka

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Need to maintain unique character and heritage while enjoying benefits of centralisation.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Rationalization of services

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Loss of identity and priority of local issues

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
69

Contribution ID: 2285

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 25, 2026, 05:58 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Milton

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

We get lost or become last on the list

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Local people being a requirement for all positions in a South Otago council or like communities nearby. That is staff to the reps.

Further, local experts being engaged instead of ni engineers that create major probs with out of region contractors.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Getting rid of the unnecessary cost of fantasy spending. Get the basics right and ask real rate payers, like those who are spending the big rates. Abuse of power by executive people on council. I have experienced this from the current one

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Dunedin greenies who are not business minded. Ie good with money and value of it

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Rate payers in general have little say with how our money is spent.

Rate increases because money is poorly managed. A balanced budget is a must.

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Kaitangata-Matau

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

I think councils of similar size and demographics should be considered for damalgamation only. My family are very much against amalgamation with larger towns ie. Queenstown & Dunedin.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Cheaper rates and perhaps better facilities.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

That we lose our identity, and we want to keep the good services and facilities we enjoy.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

I think the goverment is rushing things too much, especially with electtion and other changes being rushed through

Response No:
72

Contribution ID: 2282

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 25, 2026, 04:55 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Still having a voice by our own district mayor.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

As a rate payer hopefully a lower percentage in rate increases.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Loss of say.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

West Otago

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

That we have representatives to have a voice that is heard and counted.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

You would see savings on spending because of scale.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

The concern i have is that by combining all of Otago, we in West Otago will end up being lumbered with higher regional rates for services that we don't have here.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

If amalgamation is implemented by local Council then at what cost to the ratepayers. If as stated in your survey document that at the end of the day central government will be making the decisions on amalgamation then that being the case they should pay for the changes that they finalize and impose on us. In West Otago you smashed us with a 31.4% rates hike last year, the highest in the country, and no doubt you are going to do that again this year, where do you think the money is coming from. We are in debt because of poor Council decisions in the past, you are a bankrupt organization and any form of overspending has got to be stopped, stop crippling ratepayers and take responsibility for the lives you are ruining.

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

West Otago

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

That we have local representatives that have a voice.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

In theory an amalgamation should spread the cost of services but I think the reality is it won't. For instance who will pay for the setting up of an amalgamation? Ratepayers cant afford any more debt being lumbered on them. If its left to central government will they pay for whatever they decide to implement? As said in the Survey " the final decision on the future structure of Councils will be made by central government".

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

My biggest concern if we amalgamate with an Otago wide unitary council is the risk that we get outvoted. We need local representation which needs protecting. Rural needs differ from city needs. For example I don't want to be paying for bus services when we have none, ferries in Queenstown for the rich tourists.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Will this whole exercise just be another present government looking after their LGNZ buddies? Because at the end of the day it will be central government that decides our fate.

Response No:
75

Contribution ID: 2279

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 25, 2026, 03:44 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Catlins

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

Other (please explain below): Join with Southland. Their values align with Clutha

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Efficient service delivery. Utilizing combined resources for development. Better overall tourism strategy particularly in The Catlins

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Cost efficiency. Less duplication of services ie rubbish, roading and tourism development

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

4

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

If we amalgamate with the rest of Otago I fear we will be lost and forgotten

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
76

Contribution ID: 2278

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 25, 2026, 03:41 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Lawrence-Tuapeka

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Lower the rates

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Keeping our rural voice would be the most important thing. We don't want to be ruled by a majority city like Dunedin whose people and councilors would have very little understanding of how rural communities work and what is important to us.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

I know people talk about amalgamation leading to economies of scale and cost cutting but i dont know how well that crosses over in the public sector. the further people are from the decisions that they make the less they care about them. maybe there could be some removal of duplication but any savings would probably be soaked up in consultants and new buildings ect. i am very pessimistic that there would be any benefits to amalgamation especially if it was with large urban councils such as Dunedin.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Loss of our voice and a scaling back of vital services especially if we amalgamated with Dunedin

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
78

Contribution ID: 2276

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 25, 2026, 02:50 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Catlins

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Loss of the Clutha identity. Loss of the small town/village and rural aspect. The possibility of having to bear the legacy infrastructure costs of Dunedin.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Not many. The rating base would be the same, but just for one council. the legislative compliance work would be the same, requiring the same staff numbers. Less Mayors, CEOs.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Amalgamated with which area? The merging of communities is most successful when it is with communities of interest. Larger council areas have the risk of the loss of local voices on local issues. This proposal is ideologically driven, and likely to not be successful.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
79

Contribution ID: 2275

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 25, 2026, 02:45 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Stop rates going up

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

1

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Save money

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
80

Contribution ID: 2274

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 25, 2026, 02:27 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Not losing what each individual community needs as each community has unique needs and challenges. Losing local voices. Losing the ability to influence decisions that benefit one area and not others

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Saving money on staff and council buildings. Pooling of resources and information and amalgamation projects to get better value for money

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Getting amalgamated with an urban area with a bigger population and losing the ability to influence decisions. This area's unique issues and needs being ignored and local infrastructure and projects being neglected

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
81

Contribution ID: 2273

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 25, 2026, 01:54 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

I have seen many a amalgamations over the years and they have not been good. Community's have been losted in doing this.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

The Big and backwards method! There seems to be very little benefits in amalgamation to what I have seen. We get less for more dollars. Contracts to do everything, not many locals and a lost of the community sprit.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

We just become a number on the wall.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Over the years the amalgamation of local councils have not given us more but less of what we once had. Community spirit, locals working within there Community with pride, where today we have people whom aren't part of the community sitting in ivory towers spending and trying to ruin the Community.

Response No:
82

Contribution ID: 2272

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 25, 2026, 01:39 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Kaitangata-Matau

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

None

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Bigger isn't always better. Loss of local decisions. Debt from other Councils lumped onto Clutha District residents. City decisions not necessarily good for rural areas.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Lawrence-Tuapeka

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

I think there would need to be strong auditing processes to ensure staff and elected representatives are meeting targets for the whole district.
Representation from urban and rural would be ideal from elected representatives who reside in the newly identified boundaries in the Otago area.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Rates harmonisation and more vigilance when spending the rates. It is currently out of control and councils appear to move their focus regularly, each change of direction costs the ratepayers.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

1

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Communities don't need expensive boards and small local authorities to keep an identity. Special interest groups are already holding their own in producing strong community attractions and facilities. These groups are founded and run on the strength of volunteers who have vested interests in the community they live in.

Response No:
84

Contribution ID: 2270

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 25, 2026, 01:20 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

One CEO for the whole area who has a bit of mongrel in him/her and will strive to make council staff accountable. Some decent senior management who will make staff accountable and have a conscience with ratepayer money.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

3

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

None

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Clinton-Clydevale

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Only rural understands rural.
Look at electoral roll where our vote is destroyed with south dunedin.
Jock, big is not beautiful.
Yes combine rural.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

All rural will understand issues.
That's rural towns included.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Unfair ownership of assets.
They can be used as others assets.
Big will bully small.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Amalgamation may not guarantee reduced costs.
AI is there to collect data.
Not make your job easier.
Don't rush where angels fear to tread.

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Catlins

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Local representation is the key. A local authority should be just that, local. How that is defined remains to be determined.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

The only potential benefit I see is a reduction of duplicated effort with a corresponding reduction in council staff numbers and therefore cost to ratepayers.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

4

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

If Clutha, and potentially other largely rural councils, were to amalgamate with Dunedin we in the rural sector would lose our voice.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

I feel that there is a good case to be made for breaking up the area currently covered by the DCC such that the more rural parts join with other rural councils. North Dunedin rural could conceivably join with Waitaki, and potentially other districts in South Canterbury, while inland areas (Middlemarch etc) could join with Clutha and Central Otago DCs. Gore could come in with us or become part of a Greater Southland unitary authority as they choose. Not sure where QLDC should go but I would prefer not with Clutha.
There is a risk that financially healthy councils (e.g. Whangarei DC) will end up bailing out their less well administered neighbours (in the case of WDC that would be Kaipara and Far North). Not convinced that this is a real risk for Clutha given the current state of affairs here.

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Lawrence-Tuapeka

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

I think the community should expect to see some measure of affordability of their rates and services as a result of amalgamation

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

significant cost savings
shared expertise
we could benefit from province-wide events and services
wider knowledge base

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

it is already difficult to provide a 'local touch' in parts of our district, as most services are contracted out. I would be concerned that council might begin to seem even more distant to ratepayers as a result. This could of course be mitigated by cost-savings, but if that never actually eventuated then anti-council naysayers who already refer to council as a kind of 'ivory tower' would only be amplified.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Having a voice and not being treated as a "little brother". Affordability and not subsidising others for services that we will never utilise. Why should we pay for public transport for example?

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Cost savings through efficiencies and no duplication of management overheads. Realistic costs for audit and consent approvals rather than taking years to get things through a team that likes to block and not work towards the right outcome for communities and the environment.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

4

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
89

Contribution ID: 2265

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 25, 2026, 12:04 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Kaitangata-Matau

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Rates costs, amenities and services, community focus
Retaining representatives for local areas

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Theoretically money should be saved but practically, I don't see that happening, especially if we go north with DCC etc

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Losing our district's identity
Rates rising even more to pay for South Dunedin rehab
Could be harder to get satisfaction as a customer in outlying areas

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

Other (please explain below): I think looking south may be better for our council as we are more rural or maybe keeping the same boundary area as the new Southern Waters

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Councils need to be more transparent with their communities and some organisations need to start looking elsewhere for money rather than expecting "handouts" from Council each year. If they can't support themselves then maybe they shouldn't be there or do they not have the right people running them? Many people in our community are asking what does Clutha Development do and I must say I have no idea but they get a very large amount of money from Council. Are they really necessary???

Staff in charge of contracts need to do better so we don't have the cost over runs like we do now. Councillors need to ask more questions of the managers involved to make sure it is justified.

Going forward each existing Council should have an equal say because if it is done by population we could get caught up in say Dunedin stuff that does not affect us and have no say whatsoever.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Major benefits should be less spending on the "grey areas" and keeping to core functions.

In the past, amalgamations have never been cost effective in any way, and I can't see that changing much.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Losing our identity if we amalgamate with Dunedin City Council. It would be nice to amalgamate with other rural based Councils who operate similar to us

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

When councils merge into one bigger council, I mainly worry about losing my local voice — that decisions will be made by people far away who don't really know my area. I care about getting a fair share of resources, keeping my community's unique character, and being able to actually reach and influence my local leaders. To keep that local connection alive, bigger councils could create things like community boards, local ward seats, or give my neighborhood its own small budget to decide on local matters. The key is making sure those local structures have real power to make influence.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

I would expect to see cost savings from cutting down on duplicated services, meaning my rates could go further. I'd hope to see stronger, more strategic planning across my whole region, things like transport, housing, and infrastructure done in a more joined-up way rather than neighboring councils working against each other. I'd also expect my amalgamated council to have a bigger, louder voice when negotiating with central government, attracting investment, and tackling big challenges that don't stop at council boundaries. Done well, I think amalgamation could mean more consistent, professional services across the region, even if I'd want to keep a close eye on making sure my local area doesn't lose out in the process.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

3

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

My biggest concern is that the Clutha District's unique rural identity and needs would get lost inside a much larger council dominated by bigger urban centers. I worry that decision-makers would be too far away, physically and culturally, to truly understand the challenges of farming communities, small towns, and the specific infrastructure needs of a largely rural district like ours. I'd be concerned that our rates money could flow toward urban priorities rather than the roads, water systems, and services that matter most to people here. I'd also fear losing the direct access I currently have to local Councillors who know our community personally, replacing that with a more distant, bureaucratic structure where Clutha's voice is just one small part of a much bigger table. And honestly, I'd want to see real evidence that the promised cost savings would actually materialize, because the history of amalgamations elsewhere suggests those savings are often overstated while the loss of local representation is very real.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
92

Contribution ID: 2262

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 25, 2026, 11:33 AM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Catlins

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Cost savings from being a larger organization when purchasing services and materials

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

3

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Being marginalized by larger parts of the amalgamated council

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
93

Contribution ID: 2261

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 25, 2026, 11:26 AM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Milton

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Council considers the rural communities that have no maintenance completed on infrastructure that badly needs it ie roading kept in good condition.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

None more red tape and politics, some communities will miss out as they do now.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Again local rural communities will be forgotten

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
94

Contribution ID: 2260

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 25, 2026, 11:24 AM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Lawrence-Tuapeka

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Reasonable rates, and reduced council wasteful spending.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

See above.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

That we won't get the local attention to our concerns.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
95

Contribution ID: 2259

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 25, 2026, 11:24 AM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Lawrence-Tuapeka

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

rural prospective and fair rural representation

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

streamline services, cost savings less doubles up with services and costs reductions for rate payers

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

we will go with Dunedin and their voice will become bigger and they do not understand a rural district the way we do.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
97

Contribution ID: 2257

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 25, 2026, 11:20 AM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

West Otago

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

That all constituents are treated equal

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Can't see any really except a reduction in rates.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

We don't get a fair representation.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Lawrence-Tuapeka

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

1. Continuing efficient, direct engagement between the people in the community and Council staff; i.e. the Council is adequately staffed with professional reasonable people able and willing to continue to provide personal service wherever we live.
2. Each ward could elect a small number of representatives who would make submissions on behalf of the community to the ward's elected Councillor.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

1. Reductions in rates.
2. Efficient region-wide services.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

1

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

1. How the unitary body will be governed and staffed.
2. Ensuring that the body does not become infected by ideological, racial or political extremism such as in Auckland and Wellington.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

My main concerns are that the resulting amalgamation excludes the city councils and that the structure of separate, rural-focused unitary council is determined wholly by agreement between the participating councils and not left to the national government to enforce the structure on us.

Response No:
99

Contribution ID: 2255

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 25, 2026, 11:12 AM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Milton

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

That we are still able to be represented LOCALLY. Having a council move further away from the voters they are supposed to be serving is a disaster.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

None. As always any money saved will be frittered away by bureaucrats.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Lack of democratic mandate and voter 'buy in'

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

I disagree whole heartedly with amalgamation, power should ALWAYS reside as close to the people as possible. This is the ESSENTIAL theme of democracy, if power is moved away and useless bureaucrats elevated our democracy will further whither.

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

- Rates that are targeted to our district, not covering services that our district doesn't provide e.g public transport
- Still having fair representation, not losing our voice through having minority votes at the table

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

- Cost savings with economies of scale, however not sure this really happened when the Auckland supercity amalgamation happened, often as things get bigger there are more middle managers and layers of bureaucracy.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

- Lack of representation/voice and being swallowed up by a larger identity

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

- Central government is forcing a rushed process on local government.
- 3 Waters amalgamations are not yet in place yet, it would be good to see how these go, before deciding if there should be local government amalgamations as well.
- Central government blames local government for rates increases but much is dictated by criteria set by central government.

Response No:
101

Contribution ID: 2253

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 25, 2026, 10:47 AM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

I am a Clutha District ratepayer living out of the district

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Rates, water and maintenance of existing assets.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Hopefully a reduction in rates and better sharing of resources leading to improved public transport , water provision and general upkeep of public facilities.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

3

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

I have no real concerns other than it's important for everyone to feel respected and valued. It will be essential to have clear channels of communication between all parties in the amalgamation.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Lawrence-Tuapeka

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

Other (please explain below): I like the idea of a separate rural unitary council, but in order to have this, our wards would need to be treated equally and the vision for what rural means would need to be redefined, for example: all rurally zoned paying rural rates.

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

That we are seen and supported equally, not rendered invisible and left to fend for ourselves while areas in Central Otago receive all the love because that's where all the ex-Aucklanders, Aussies, and super-rich are retiring ;-)

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Greater interoperability/ pooling of resources for major projects aka an infrastructure upgrade across the wider Otago region.

Targeted and sustainable actions undertaken regarding water infrastructure, water quality, and waterway health for all communities reliant on the Mata-Au. A close look at how many 'drains' on this vital artery the region has and how to mitigate further strain.

This is a long shot, but employers in the wider Otago region might be less resistant to taking on job seekers from the smaller areas within Clutha aka Lawrence, where I am based. I have been rejected based solely on the fact I live an hour away from an employer. If we were one larger region this perception might change.

Sustainable rates for all ratepayers with that money actually going towards the quality local services it's intended for.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

4

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

At present, from an environmental perspective, Clutha is beginning to look and feel like pineville. Lawrence is near forested in by them. Yes, some of these new forests are permanent, carbon sinks, but many are not. I'm concerned that one larger entity will mean that Central Otago, Dunedin etc will see investment into the 'environmental' clean green initiatives that are aesthetically pleasing to tourists, the wealthy, and the super rich, while Clutha will become the dumping ground for all of the 'economic' initiatives mandated by the government. Pine, mines, turbines for Clutha. Native planting, wetlands, cycleway upgrades, luxury builds for everyone else. I hope that's not the case.

I'm also a bit concerned that towns like Lawrence will one day see a huge bypass being built across our beautiful pastoral hillsides; one that connects Dunedin to Central without need for a pit-stop in the small towns. This has happened in other parts of New Zealand and has made it really tough for some small towns to survive. For places like Mapua in Tasman it has benefited them, but they are positioned right beside the bay and inlet with the Kahurangi and Abel Tasman on their doorstep. For a town like Lawrence, it would be so hard to attract and keep residents and visitors.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

This could make or break Clutha so needs to be done in stages, perhaps with interoperability on specific projects agreed upon at first until genuine understanding between districts is gained. That's my two cents.

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Local decision-making and strong representation for rural communities are most important. I want elected representatives who understand the unique needs of places like Clutha and can advocate for local priorities rather than having decisions made from larger urban centres. Community boards or local wards with genuine influence would help ensure local voices continue to be heard.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Potential benefits could include reduced duplication of services, more efficient administration, stronger strategic planning, and better coordination across the wider region. If managed well, amalgamation could also improve access to specialist expertise and make it easier to deliver large infrastructure projects.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

My biggest concerns are that rural communities could lose their voice, local priorities may be overlooked in favour of larger urban areas, and decision-making could become more distant from residents. I am also concerned about the potential loss of local identity and whether rates collected from our area would continue to be invested back into our community.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Catlins

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

More adequate decision making , sensible thinking
Less representation i see clutha needing 1 maybe 2 representatives

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Less spending waste, less ridiculous community projects
Removal of all unnecessary expenditure through wages
A greater focus on infrastructure and only infrastructure
Councils getting back to basics

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

4

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Just before I answer this the above question is ridiculous they already have their local identity they don't need councils for this believe me council's are destroying this

I have no concerns this should have been done years ago when you all decided to bust council's bank accounts
LET'S GET REAL ALL COUNCIL'S SHOULD BE PUT IN LIQUIDATION I SAY THIS WITH FULL SINCERITY

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

All I can say welcome it , embrace it go with it

Get rid of your negative thoughts

Don't hinder the process

Response No:
105

Contribution ID: 2249

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 25, 2026, 09:54 AM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Lawrence-Tuapeka

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Still have some say in local matters and keep an elected representative

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

A more efficient governing body able to keep rate rises under control

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Loss of representation

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Looks like amalgamation on our decisions or it will be forced on us

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Clinton-Clydevale

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

To keep the rural aspect at the forefront of any amalgamation.
Representatives would have an even number from each joint district.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Cheaper administration costs, joint bulk buying power, diversification of council membership bringing new ideas.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

That we lose out to a stronger, more urban area wanting to 'improve' their area over the Clutha districts

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

I would like to see an amalgamated council bring back it's own workforce instead of contractors.

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Milton

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

Other (please explain below): Clutha, Gore and CoDC - NOT QUEENSTOWN

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

same local people working in our district council, sure back-end admin task can be shared but thats it. I dont want to ring up the council and speak to someone in gore who knows nothing about Clutha roads

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

I dont believe there is one, look at Auckland.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

We lose our local council staff, representation, local knowledge and passion

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

This is a waste of time, energy and money. Lets be honest its not going to result in less people or rates reduction.

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Ward as per the Otago Regional Council. I.e. fewer wards but each ward is bigger and each elected "councilor" has a large constituency to represent.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Less duplication of roles especially in administration leading to cost savings for ratepayers. Also access to wide pool of resources and knowledge.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

1

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

I have no concerns with amalgamation.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Amalgamation is long overdue. I have been saying for years Otago only needs 1 Council not 6.

Response No:
109

Contribution ID: 2245

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 25, 2026, 09:47 AM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Catlins

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Understanding how a rural community works eg: extensive gravel road network, lots of small townships.
Not losing our voice in a big council.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Nothing, it just introduces a middle tier of middle managers.
Maybe more accountability which we don't have at the moment

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Loss of our assets for someone else to sell off or privatize.
Loss of any autonomy on how things are done.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Don't think it will be a cost saver, it's being done too quickly to be completed in a planned, thought full way

Response No:
110

Contribution ID: 2244

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 25, 2026, 09:44 AM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Catlins

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Local representation of each area so there is a voice on council catering to local needs

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Cost cutting and less red tape to get things done

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

That it will be rushed and there won't be the thought put into local input.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Catlins

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

Other (please explain below): A council that seeks continious cost savings and efficiancies run by a manager not a CEO irrespective of what when or where its located complete disestablishment of ORC

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Focused on savings and efficiencies with councils focused on core issues rather that the handouts likely worthy but not ours to pay for i see each time i participate re verbal submissions.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Cost savings and efficiencies

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

1

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

that the money go round will continue with egotistical spends based on sometime ridiculous concerns re earthquakes et al rather than the every day practical realities. No more one couincil getting another council fined the ratepayers pay in the end.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

COUNCILS CURRENTLY DONT LISTEN SO NO AMOUNT OF FIDDLING RE AMALGAMATION IS GOING TO FIX THAT and as long as some employees can get away with claiming theyre taken out of context when they state (*on their salary)(the rises are not that much.) Well; if you have an entitled culture you will never have a working for the residents council. I personally don't entirely support amalgamation but the ORC empire building has to cease. Also creating homes / employment for aging academics should not be the focus of councils like ORC et al.

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Catlins

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

An informed voice on issues that are important to the community of interest
Retaining some form of autonomy and sense of purpose on what we can build on for future generations
Gore district and Clutha district combining with separation of perhaps the northern end of Clutha district to Dunedin.

An enlarging the Gore District to include some of its northern neighbours to Balfour /Lumsden

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Less duplication is probably the obvious but that's about where it would end
Big doesn't make it better necessarily

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

4

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Taking on another councils mismanagement
Control lost to big city representation

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Provincial boundaries should be put to the side when looking at amalgamation
Communities with commonality should be the starting point and a willingness to work together as one for a future focused outcome

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Lawrence-Tuapeka

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

saving rates money

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

as above

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

1

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

that they will go with the most costly to retain local services that are outdated and useless .

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

dont fund buildings and staff in this area ,just to justify rates increases,these staff are only there to get a pay packet and have bad attitudes ,not helpfull ones

Response No:
114

Contribution ID: 2240

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 25, 2026, 09:27 AM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Clinton-Clydevale

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Milton

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Keeping the clutha district separated from larger urban councils ie Dunedin. Having lived in both regions it is safe to say being included in a larger city council would be detrimental to the local area. There wasteful spending and lack of practical experience in rural living world make clutha area nearly a suspidery for to fund there wasteful spending while the local area gets neglected and even further degraded.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Nothing that can't be achieved simply by agreeing to work together in required poaitions. Is bulk purchase agreements or shared projects

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

4

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

The community would be forced to adopt urban ideals that do not fit the region. The majority of the decision making would be made by urban based decision makers that don't understand the local requirements. The region would be used for its rates basis to fund projects in the larger centers while smaller towns and areas are left to rot. If we have to amalgamate then we would be better looking to join in further south with Southland / Gore area as they would be more relatable to our requirements.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Amalgamation with the likes of the DCC would ruin our beautiful region. I believe those able to would leave the region and the long term effects would be devastating. The region would become unmaintained. All funding would be bisas towards population which would mean revenue for the area would be used to fund projects in the larger areas.

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

I'm 25yr old and I will be truthful this year was my first time voting and the reason I voted for jock is because my parents said he was a good guy they new him because in this small community everyone knows everyone jock is the guy that if you walked down the street he would smile and say hello if we become a bigger council we lose the friendly feeling the feeling Clutha strives on

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Losing the one thing our community loves being united knowing who we are trusting and knowing we live in the same little town and we all want the best for Clutha the familiar feeling of a friendly face

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Jock has a background in farming and Clutha is a farming community you can't get better then that if we bring in bigger and people outside of Clutha how do we know they want what we want

Response No:
117

Contribution ID: 2237

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 25, 2026, 09:02 AM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Bigger population to dilute costs

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

1

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Rate rises

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

West otago and tapanui should join gore and Southland. The rest of otago needs to stay away from Southland.

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Bruce-Waiholo

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Focus on infrastructure
Local representation
Access to Local Council Office
Ensuring local levels of service are maintained or enhanced

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

More collaboration as far as contracts, IT and resources

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

We lose our local representation and find ourselves put behind other areas in priority for infrastructure, spending etc and our rural focus is pushed aside in favour of urban and/or tourism focus

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

I would far prefer to see Councils retain their own identity but more focus on collaboration and sharing resources.

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

West Otago

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

At least retaining the services we have now.

Local representation would need at least one representative from the West Otago area on a board that covers a wider area.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

There may be savings in administration.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

When Clutha gets amalgamated if it ends up with a large urban population the rating system we have now will have to be dramatically changed ,the rural community would pay far more ,as it does know for half the urban infrastructure problems.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

If amalgamation is done right with the right groups of districts it can be very beneficial .

Response No:
120

Contribution ID: 2234

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 25, 2026, 08:46 AM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Catlins

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

We could just join with Gore and keep it simple -we are too different from other councils in Otago in demographics and topography.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

none

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

its needs are not met

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
121

Contribution ID: 2233

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 25, 2026, 08:24 AM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Milton

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Local residents being herd and

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

I don't see any

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Even more wasteful spending

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

West Otago

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Maintenance of our existing assets and infrastructure with ability to further develop over time. Representation should be a minimum of one to a maximum of three from our west otago area

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Possibly less duplication of staff

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Loss of funding to maintain infrastructure because of a smaller population.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

A good idea but would have been a better situation if councils/regional authorities had been given a longer time frame. It is a big ask of relatively newly elected governing bodies to undertake.

Response No:
123

Contribution ID: 2231

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 25, 2026, 07:58 AM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Catlins

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Need to have the council at a effective number 3 representatives 1 financial, 1 services/ engineering, 1 operations

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Real change
Responsibility and ownership
Tax reduction as not as many back end office staff required as using a single system and model for operations

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Local money gets spent outside the district. And our rates pay for other regions.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

If done correctly should see rates drop and better service as single cost on multiple back end systems.

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Lawrence-Tuapeka

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Local representation with a close eye on controlling expenditure to target the necessary stuff not the nice to haves. Vital to avoid the likes of Auckland where staff numbers increased with amalgamation.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Ideally you would see savings and more efficient running of services but not convinced that would be the reality.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Losing our local voice and not achieving the savings that are promised.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
125

Contribution ID: 2229

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 25, 2026, 06:51 AM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Catlins

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Rates spent elsewhere

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

If councils are amalgamated you will forget about the little man. The sports clubs that need financial assistance for basic maintenance and upkeep. They are already struggling. The local tradesmen for local jobs will be overlooked and work will be conducted by companies that don't care and they fold when remedial work is required. The big centres will receive all the infrastructure upgrades because that's where the votes are.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Less communication required by government, less expenditure by government because they will just pay less as its 1 entity for the area, not a good thing.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

There will be even less upkeep in the area, we already struggle to keep the town and areas clean and tidy. Who wants to pay the highest rates in the country to live in a dump where we even struggle to maintain clean drinking water while our actual rates are spent serving the city slickers. It will kill the small towns.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

With all the tourists that transit through the small towns you should actually think about investing more in them. Not just throwing money down for the sake of throwing money at a problem like the public toilets that cost as much as a domestic dwelling. Maybe you could look at PPP's or tendering opportunities for local projects by local trades people not just Calder Stewart. Not only would you be keeping local business in work, they might actually grow.

Response No:
127

Contribution ID: 2227

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 25, 2026, 06:28 AM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Catlins

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Hopefully less waste of money and consideration on the basics. Stop all new nice to have spending.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

More accountable spending.
Better roading instead of band-aid

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

3

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Nothing.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
128

Contribution ID: 2226

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 25, 2026, 03:25 AM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Catlins

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Too often we have seen centralisation as a failure just look at what centralisation of our hospital services has done! Our voices get lost when we're put in a bigger bowl.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

I dont see how it would benefit us at all, we would be forgotten about.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Like I've said above, we wouldn't benefit at all, its always the same with Right wing hovernments, and this is just a sweeping under the carpet scheme.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

I oppose amalgamation.

Response No:
129

Contribution ID: 2225

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 25, 2026, 12:16 AM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Bruce-Waihola

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

That we get herd..not just pulled into the bigger pot. And dismissed...I dont give a toss about the new clutha council building or the milton pool. I want whats best for waihola were I live.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

The cost or our rates..its getting out of hand

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

That it would be a cost blow like all things the cdc touches or half arsed.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

West Otago

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

That our infrastructure is maintained and and grown when needed so it doesn't stunt our community growth, that we have the basic services done right, in a practical manner. That planning is in place so budgets can be maintained, and suppliers are utilised efficiently so there is no overspending. Local community representations would be a mini community council, with one of those representatives then sitting on the unitary council.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Smarter use of and sharing resources, streamlining operational costs, scheduling contractors on jobs in a more streamlined approach. Bulk buy discounts, smarter streamlines systems and processes. Pooling of resources,

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

That we get lost amongst the larger councils and our infrustrature is ignored.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Don't under estimate the cost and challenge of, bringing different people together and there work place cultures. It is a massive challenge. Don't lose site of the people's

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

What really matters is making sure local voices are heard and decisions are made by people who actually know our area.

If councils get merged, smaller communities can't be forgotten. Rural folks, young people, volunteers, farmers, businesses, and community groups should all have a real say.

Local representation should mean having elected reps who live in and stay connected with their communities, meetings that are easy to attend, and real chances for people to have input. Strong local boards or committees could help keep local priorities front and centre.

No matter how things are set up, keeping strong local connections and making decision-making easy to access should be a top priority.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Merging councils could make things run more smoothly, cut down on overlap, and save some money on admin. A bigger council might also have more resources, better access to funding, and be in a stronger position to take on bigger regional projects.

It could also help with working together more, offering more consistent services, and bringing in a wider range of skills and experience.

That said, it really only works well if local voices are still heard and community needs stay front and centre.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

I'd probably worry most about smaller communities getting drowned out and decisions leaning too much toward bigger population centres. Rural areas have their own needs and priorities, and it's important those don't get overlooked.

I'd also be concerned about losing local knowledge. Decisions tend to work best when they're made by people who really understand the communities they're serving and the challenges they face.

Other things that come to mind are having less access to local decision-makers, losing a sense of community identity, and not really knowing if the promised cost savings or service improvements would actually happen.

If amalgamation does go ahead, it's really important to keep strong local representation so people still feel heard, valued, and connected to the decisions being made.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Through our community group, I've seen firsthand how much people value connection, belonging, and having a place where they feel heard. Many people in our community are struggling with isolation, mental health challenges, grief, and a lack of support networks. This is especially true for some of our elderly residents, who can often feel disconnected from services, activities, and social opportunities.

Our group was established to create a stronger sense of community, encourage meaningful connections, and provide a safe and welcoming space where people can support one another. We hope to be part of a wider effort to reduce isolation and support suicide prevention by helping people feel seen, valued, and connected before they reach a crisis point.

We also recognise the lasting impact suicide has on families, friends, and communities. An important part of what we do is providing support, understanding, and connection for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one, helping ensure they know they do not have to walk that journey alone.

Whatever decision is made around amalgamation, I hope local government continues to recognise and support the community groups, volunteers, clubs, and organisations that strengthen community wellbeing. Strong communities are built through local relationships, local knowledge, and people looking out for one another. My hope is that any future council structure strengthens these connections and ensures that people of all ages continue to feel seen, heard, supported, and connected.

Response No:
132

Contribution ID: 2222

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 24, 2026, 11:15 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Kaitangata-Matau

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
133

Contribution ID: 2221

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 24, 2026, 10:44 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

West Otago

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
134

Contribution ID: 2220

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 24, 2026, 10:17 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Catlins

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Need to appoint professionals so it's run like a business not just community voted in people. Could have 1-2 spots where community elect the rest should be a professional board.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Streamlined services, some area where staff numbers are reduced ie. support service departments.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

3

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Clutha is left out of some priority as it's smaller, rates increase to support functions in other parts of the region.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Need to ensure that the regional council functions are incorporated such as engineering, biosecurity, biodiversity enhancement. The government doesn't seem to value these important services.

Response No:
135

Contribution ID: 2219

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 24, 2026, 09:51 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Bruce-Waiholā

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Smaller towns continue to be an after thought. Unfortunately they are now. Community fundraising to do work around our waiholā community that the council should be doing.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Just going to create more debt
Other councils will pull from other districts to service their projects and forget all towns priorities

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Lawrence-Tuapeka

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

having a local voice, and affordability.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

savings due to lack of duplication and cross over services with other existing Councils

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

losing local representation

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

The current system has not worked well, with huge rate increases needed to clear/service debt as well as provide essential services. The expectation from residents on what Councils are asked to provide for their communities outside core services, is becoming unrealistic. Some of this is legislative from above and some is local expectation.

The only viable choice is amalgamation and hopefully by having more ratepayers to carry the load, and the efficiencies amalgamation should bring, will go a long way to solve the rate affordability issue,

Response No:
137

Contribution ID: 2217

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 24, 2026, 09:17 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Kaitangata-Matau

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Representatives of each rural community in our district is the same as it is now

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

The rates that are paid in the rural communities stays within its community, not taken by one for its new shiny toy and others miss out

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

That we lose our identity within the amalgamated district

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
138

Contribution ID: 2216

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 24, 2026, 08:56 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Lawrence-Tuapeka

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

That rural communities get the same detail and attention that towns and cities do and not "thrown to the bottom of the pile" because they have fewer people living there

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

The same treatment throughout all communities

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Smaller communities would loose their individual uniqueness even though they would most probably gain in other ways

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
139

Contribution ID: 2215

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 24, 2026, 08:53 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Kaitangata-Matau

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Better water cause our water is crap that we pay for & Better roads

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Everything

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

We get left behind and still have the same conditions we do now ^ nothing is being done about our conditions now

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

We will be left so far behind

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Catlins

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Infrastructure and core services a priority. Rural and small settlements maintained to same level as towns and cities.

Would have difficulty with a population based distribution of representation which could isolate smaller communities

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Less cost through less staff and plant. No duplication of roles.
Hopefully accompanied by fewer regulation and less bureaucracy with simplified processes

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Small population could affect level of service and distribution of funding.
One size fits all model maybe disadvantages to some areas

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

The idea is good but needs managed to ensure benefits are achieved
Very thin line between creating a better system or becoming an out of control monster

Response No:
141

Contribution ID: 2213

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 24, 2026, 08:33 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Everything must be done for clutha rate payers by clutha people, amalgamation will not work.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

None, amalgamation has never worked in the past and will not work now.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Cost to rate payers, when are you lot going to listen to the rate payers!!!

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Stop the stupid spending of money on nice to have crap then we will be a lot better off

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice I am a Clutha District ratepayer living out of the district

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text There must absolutely be iwi representatives from each rohe present at the table. These voices must be kept strong, valued and respected

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text More funding and resources available for regions.. otherwise I can't see any except for the fat cats at the top to get more cream!

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating 4

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text Losing cultural anonymity pride and loyalty. The more we are undervalued and overlooked, the more we will continue to lose upcoming generations to urban centres

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text Once you lose anonymity and independence you become vulnerable to autocracy

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Bruce-Waiholo

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

I do not support the proposal to amalgamate local government into a single Otago-wide council. Local government works best when decisions are made close to the communities they affect. The Clutha district has its own unique needs, priorities, challenges, and opportunities that differ significantly from larger urban centres and more densely populated parts of Otago. A local council is better placed to understand these issues and respond appropriately. I am concerned that under a single Otago council, the needs of smaller rural communities could be overshadowed by the priorities of larger population centres. Decisions about infrastructure, roads, water services, economic development, environmental management, and community facilities should continue to be guided by those who have a strong understanding of the local area. Maintaining local representation ensures that residents have a direct voice in decision-making and that elected members remain accountable to the communities they serve. A larger regional structure risks creating greater distance between decision-makers and the people affected by those decisions. While I support councils working together where it improves efficiency and reduces duplication, I do not believe full amalgamation is the best solution. Preserving strong local governance while encouraging collaboration between councils provides a better balance between efficiency and local representation. For the future of local government, it is important that Clutha retains a council that is focused on the needs and priorities of our own district and communities.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Potential benefits of amalgamation could include reduced duplication of administration, shared services across a larger area, and greater consistency in planning and policy. A larger council may also have increased purchasing power, a broader resource base, and potentially a stronger voice when dealing with central government.

However, I am uncertain whether these benefits would outweigh the loss of local representation and local decision-making. Any efficiency gains would need to be significant and clearly demonstrated, as there is also a risk that the needs of smaller rural communities could receive less attention within a larger Otago-wide structure.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

My biggest concern is that Clutha's needs and priorities would be overshadowed by the interests of larger population centres within a single Otago-wide council. Rural communities face different challenges and require different solutions from those of larger urban areas.

I am concerned that local representation would be reduced, making it harder for residents to have their voices heard and for elected members to remain closely connected to the communities they serve. Decisions would be made further away from the people affected by them, resulting in a loss of local knowledge and understanding.

I am also concerned that rates collected from Clutha residents could be directed towards projects and services in other parts of Otago, while local infrastructure, roads, community facilities, and services may receive less attention.

While efficiency is often cited as a benefit of amalgamation, I am not convinced that a larger council would necessarily be more efficient or responsive. There is a risk that decision-making could become more bureaucratic, less accountable, and less focused on the specific needs of Clutha communities.

Overall, my concern is that amalgamation would weaken local democracy and reduce the ability of Clutha residents to influence decisions that directly affect their communities.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

I support councils working together where it makes sense, particularly in areas where shared services, specialist expertise, or joint planning can improve efficiency and reduce costs. However, I believe cooperation and collaboration can be achieved without full amalgamation.

Local government should remain close to the communities it serves. Clutha has a strong identity, unique rural priorities, and distinct community needs that deserve local representation and local decision-making. Maintaining a local council helps ensure that decisions are informed by people who understand the district and are accountable to its residents.

Before any amalgamation proposal is considered, there should be clear evidence that it will deliver measurable benefits for Clutha residents, including improved services, stronger representation, and value for money. In the absence of that evidence, I believe retaining local governance while continuing to explore opportunities for inter-council collaboration is the better option.

The future of local government should strengthen communities, not distance them from decision-makers.

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Where does the debt goes and will it include more debt from the adjoining councils.
Representation needs to be people who serve and have a vested interest in the local community, people who do not live, breath and arent part of a community are not suitable to represent it. I'm not referring to "counselors" but decision making council staff

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Potential for debt sharing if joining councils offset the costs. Otherwise no benefits.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Local knowledge (currently poor in infrastructure decision making) being completely lost to a bigger org

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

West Otago

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

Other (please explain below): No detail is available on what a proposed amalgamation would look like. It is difficult to make a plan when no details are given.

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Ratepayers want councils to save money (not charge so much) in rates) but the reality is that this could mean loss of council services and facilities. I don't think that amalgamation will save massive amounts of money but it could lessen services provided to rural communities and weaken the voice of isolated communities. Rural communities will need Community Boards to ensure representation.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Cost savings through economies of scale - I do not believe that this will occur in the case of local/regional government. The areas in question are too vast, the issues too complicated the staff too overworked already. It will cost huge amounts of money to integrate the many systems needed to run the many activities the councils oversee.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Loss of local identity/voice
Increased costs rather than intended savings
Taking on more debt from neighbouring districts
Amalgamation is not the answer- central government needs to fund local government in some areas and not expect ratepayers to pay for outrageously expensive services such as water and infrastructure

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Forced amalgamation is not the answer to fixing local government financial problems. Central government needs to consider other ways to fund activities so that ratepayers are not footing the bills for past decisions to keep rates low and not fund infrastructure and services.

Response No:
146

Contribution ID: 2208

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 24, 2026, 07:48 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Milton

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

West Otago

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

Other (please explain below): No Amalgamation. Remain as is currently

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Leave it as is. We dont need to change it.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Nothing. It will not have any benefits. Look at Auckland. A complete failure. Does not work.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Increase in costs and loss of identity.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Stupid idea. No plan, nothing. All politics.

Response No:
148

Contribution ID: 2206

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 24, 2026, 07:42 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Clinton-Clydevale

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

2 rural councillors farmers and 2 town councillors from each area. Eg clutha, Lawrence, Milton. Owaka clinton etc

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Use of resources combined. Eg. Cars, staff etc

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

3

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Townies decide what happens to rural lives

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
149

Contribution ID: 2205

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 24, 2026, 07:30 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Milton

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

If we join up it will reduce staff and small towns will be forgotten

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

There is none

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Milton will not have a say

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
150

Contribution ID: 2204

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 24, 2026, 07:24 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

That the voice of our current district is still heard and listened too

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Amalgamation of like minded ideas, a pooling of resources for staff and services with a flow on effect for our rates

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

If we get amalgamated with a city council, our rural rate payers will not get heard. Other districts get priority when it comes to important services, do not want to see CDC be the poor cousins or the scapegoat

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
151

Contribution ID: 2203

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 24, 2026, 07:14 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Community voice and not over powered by a population driven vote

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Rates decrease, streamlined services.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Dilution of representation

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
152

Contribution ID: 2202

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 24, 2026, 03:34 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Kaitangata-Matau

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

It is important that our community voice would still be heard.
More efficiency and less duplication could mean rates may not keep increasing

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Better efficiency and less duplication of roles and responsibilities

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

That we would lose a voice to the larger councils.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Catlins

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

Other (please explain below): We do not agree with amalgamation.

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Loss of local identity.
Being out voted by larger populations.
Our local Kaka Point Issues could become very minor in a larger council.
Our rates will be used for projects in more populated areas.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

We see very few benefits in amalgamation for Kaka Point.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

It would lose its identity .
There is no guarantee that our rates will decrease as shown with previous amalgamations.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

This council appears to be succumbing to rushed Government policy without taking time and consulting ratepayers first. This survey is only one means for consulting the ratepayers. No public meetings or letterbox dropoffs. Every ratepayer should be notified to give all the opportunity to comment.

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

Other (please explain below): Clutha District Council, Southland District Council, Gore District Council and Invercargill City would be a good amalgamation option for a Southern Unitary Council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

A reduction in rates or at least keeping rate rise in line with inflation
Maybe a need for more community boards
Still being able to have face to face access with council staff and elected members

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

A reduction in rates or at least keeping rate rise in line with inflation

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

4

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Smaller communities receive less services and less funds spent on their facilities
Fewer locally elected councilors to represent the Clutha District and less access to council staff

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Clutha District Council, Southland District Council, Gore District Council and Invercargill City would be a good amalgamation option for a Southern Unitary Council

Response No:
155

Contribution ID: 2199

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 24, 2026, 01:25 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Milton

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

That the Clutha district maintains an identity and a voice in terms of how funds are allocated.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Clutha is a large area, but with limited and spread out population due to rural nature of the district. Small population means smaller ratepayer base to fund essential services - ie roading, water etc. Greater population of amalgamated entity would mean costs spread over more ratepayers and greater buyer power with a larger organisation.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

4

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Due to our small population our representation at the table would be proportionally smaller, meaning we would have less say on how funds are spent and what projects are prioritised.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
156

Contribution ID: 2198

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 23, 2026, 06:17 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Milton

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Need to keep our identities and that resources are used fairly in the region

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Codt cutting efficiencies

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

eople running it with their own agendas at the forefront

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
157

Contribution ID: 2197

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 23, 2026, 02:42 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Milton

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

That smaller voices are not lost within decisions.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

More consistency across the region

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Loss of voice

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

A Council needs to understand its people. If the groups are amalgamated too widely, the diversity of voices will not be heard as easily. The Clutha District covers a large area, an area needing upgrading but also a population facing change. The Council need to know & be heard by those they represent.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

None.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Loss of identity & loss of trust. Each area represented is unique, even within Clutha District each area represents different people, & different needs. There needs to be a voice for rural & urban. Rural needs need to be met, especially with cost of living issues, lack of transport, vulnerability to climate change & an ageing population.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

The government needs to understand that people matter. NZ needs to be a place where people thrive & feel proud to be part of the local & national community. Small communities are not just numbers that can be moved around & combined by people sitting at a desk in central government.

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Catlins

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

Other (please explain below): I would prefer that the Clutha District Council takes over the ORC and their duties - for either the Clutha District or all of Otago. ORC assets can be sold - Port of Otago, and their headquarters in Dunedin. This would fund further activities, paying for Clutha to take over those responsibilities.

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Amalgamation would likely lead to loss of local knowledge and understanding. If the HQ is still in Clutha, it would be much better for ratepayers.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

If we amalgamate/take over the ORC, rate increases would not have to be so large as there would be funds released from sale of assets.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Loss of local knowledge and concern.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Catlins

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

Other (please explain below): Unsure, as while it would be good to have local government that reflects the rural nature of the Clutha District there is also the issue of roading which is used by everybody to go from place to place. Who is going to pay for those roads?

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Ratepayers paying wherever possible only for the infrastructure and services provided in their own areas and with local representation.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

I don't see any major benefits from amalgamation. I feel we are already over amalgamated in the Clutha District with ratepayers paying for facilities that they can't or rarely are able to access. There is no sense of local representation, ownership or accountability when the cost of infrastructure in an area is paid for, in part, by people who don't live there and get not direct benefit.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Less accountability by our representatives to the district ratepayers they represent.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
161

Contribution ID: 2193

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 21, 2026, 10:28 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Bruce-Waihola

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

The up keep of roads, parks and other council amenities. At least two representatives for our area and their voices are heard on behalf of our community

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

There is none

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

That small rural towns will be forgotten

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

You just have to look at the Auckland super city and how that has ignored the outer towns and drained majority of the money into the central city. Which will be a forever on going thing, which will continually hick the rates for everybody

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

Other (please explain below): Get rid of Regional Councils as promised. Leave District Councils as they are

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Rates are drastically REDUCED!! We have Community Boards now - give them more say in Council decisions

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Drastically REDUCED rates. Last year our rates rose by \$900, this year they tell us to expect an \$800 rise. 2027 the dreadful water CCO will be implemented. At the best, a rise of \$2,300!!!
We cannot afford this.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

3

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Another Auckland City Council. At the start the rates rose threefold. However, I must admit the 7.6% rise Aucklanders are crying about this year would be very welcome in Balclutha!

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

We heard the exact words about the amalgamation of Auckland City - less administration fees, no double ups etc - yet rates rose exponentially for the first few years. The water CCO - using those same words - already before it's even implemented has a cost expected to be \$3,300. If Council do as they promise (highly unlikely on past experience) and reduce the rates by the water part that brings it down to a huge \$2,300! We can't afford these hikes. New Zealand spends more on infrastructure than any other country - as seen in our taxes and rates - and yet we have the lowest results. Instead of tinkering with Councils, taxes and rates perhaps getting actual results on the infrastructure jobs is more paramount!

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

I am a Clutha District ratepayer living out of the district

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Need active, effective representation on any amalgamated council for our community of Kaka Point and surrounds. We wouldn't want to see the impact of our current regulatory bodies to be reduced in any way. We would be wary of being a forgotten, marginalised section of a bigger body. How can we not only retain what we have but also improve the facilities to take advantage of the wider picture scenario whereby having greater access to increased purchasing power of personnel, expertise, resources and facilities.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Greater access to increased purchasing power of personnel, expertise, resources and facilities. Ideally our rates should decrease because duplication of resources and expertise should be reduced. At the moment, our Kaka Point rates are very high compared to our Invercargill City Council rates and yet access to facilities such as reliable water supply, library, and other infrastructure aspects does not equate.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

We are a small part of a bigger whole - will our needs and our voices matter? Will the water issue be resolved as it has caused many interruptions to supply and quality that we shouldn't be putting up with in this day and age with the high rates we are charged.
Will bigger metropolitan centres such as Dunedin, Wanaka etc swallow up a disproportionate amount of the money generated by rate payers - will the squeaky wheels get more than their fair share of the grease so to speak?
Equity of resources needs to be maintained or better still improved.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

It makes sense to maximise resources - there must be a lot of duplication going on - administratively in particular. I support the rationalisation of administrative services and deployment of personal and resources. Amalgamation SHOULD give smaller communities a better deal - my concern is - will it give us a better deal? If it is envisaged it will give us a better deal - how will this be tracked, monitored and communicated to us? There will need to be some measurable data to show us how the amalgamation is beneficial to our community.
If amalgamation is going to go ahead - will we have access to costings and forecasts ahead of time to show what is being gained/saved by amalgamation.

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Milton

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

That we do not become invisible and ignored.
Local representation knows the needs of its own communities whereas wider representation can often lead to being overlooked.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

The major benefits would be for the Southern region of New Zealand to be Heard by Government. Which I think is not the case at present.
Look at the shambles of building the Dunedin Hospital.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

It would depend on who we are amalgamated with. Queenstown and Wanaka would be first in line because of Tourism and the Clutha regions could be overlooked.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Bigger is not best, if we lose our identity
We just become another \$ sign in the Powers that be.
We need to be self determined to be the Best we can be.

Response No:
165

Contribution ID: 2189

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 19, 2026, 10:04 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Milton

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

I'd be looking very hard and far.but cant quite make out who.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

None. Just a bigger pool of funding for big and out of touch with the economy and times projects.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Bring back county council. Owned equipment to do the jobs required of a council.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
166

Contribution ID: 2188

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 19, 2026, 09:37 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Well run services, reasonable rates without costly increases each year

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Rates not going up so much

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

4

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Services not being run well, there not being the funds for our roading/ infrastructure

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
167

Contribution ID: 2187

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 19, 2026, 06:23 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Milton

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Rural residents have very different problems than urban. Would someone in another city even know where we live and how difficult rural living can sometimes be.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Less administrative costs to start with and a more uniformed approach to issues and maintenance

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

3

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Small communities will be forgotten and be the bottom of the list for work and repairs

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Milton

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

As a ratepayer living in Milton I am very keen on amalgamation with other Otago Councils because I can't see how else our council can manage to meet all the responsibilities that a council has.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Better drinking water, better waste disposal, an improvement in air quality in Milton, a footpath that is safe to walk on and more council involvement in the welfare of citizens (provision of accommodation for those who cannot pay market rents for example).

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

3

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

That our voices will not be heard in an enlarged council. This could be avoided by having an elected council member from each area.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

I strongly support amalgamation of Clutha District Council with other Otago Councils. I understand that Clutha DC has only 18000 rateable units. This is far too small to fund everything councils need to do for their communities.

Response No:
169

Contribution ID: 2185

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 18, 2026, 06:07 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Clinton-Clydevale

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Small communities are being left out, no improvements, no visibility from council representatives or improvement of services or funding

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Better support

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Being left behind, no funding, no support

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Maybe use electoral boundaries

Response No:
170

Contribution ID: 2184

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 18, 2026, 04:56 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

I would expect to see rates reduce as the total number to employ would reduce. Cut some fat so to speak

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

1

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

I dont have any

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

I think that the council spends too much money on company cars and the costs to run these for out of town employees.

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Milton

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

Other (please explain below): Clutha district is surrounded by many councils, keep Balclutha/kai/catlins under a new authority and spread the rest to closest neighbour whilst also increasing community boards where they dont occur for the local voice.

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Local representation would look like a milton community board under whatever authority as opposed to multiple community groups of differing agendas.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Some areas would see a higher focus than currently, some areas would also see more resources being tied to a larger authority.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

4

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

The wrong areas being taken by the wrong council, eg Milton/Waiholo going under Southland or Gore as opposed to Dunedin.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Bruce-Waiholo

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

That things are different in a rural area than a metro. For years we have been charged for footpath maintenance when we don't have footpaths, public transport when we don't have any. It needs to be in line with the local area

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

I'd like to hope cheaper rates but I seriously doubt that

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

3

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

That you'll Lump rate payers with even bigger rates and no justification for it

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Think smart about it. They just built a swanky new office in Dunedin All for what!
Don't waste rate payers money

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

I am a Clutha District ratepayer living out of the district

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

as i understand an amalgamated group would also be the unitary authority for what is environment issues lakes rivers etc . logically these should be aligned with existing catchment authorities ie. clutha river and associated environs. because of changing weather patterns this is going to be an on going responsibility of the community. the district councils within that geographic area would therefore look seriously at joining forces

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

a greater and more targeted use of man power and the ability to have rational staff numbers. ie. engineer and design staff, one unit able to cover all areas, roading , less administrative and more hands on staff a cut back in administration staff . and dont go and build a whole new edifice just because you think you are bigger and need more office space

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

3

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

cdc has the best rural roading structure of any of you neighbours dont squander that. there is a sense of personal connection with a local council office and i feel strongly that needs to be retained. i feel that whatever happens in future local governance that community groups will still be encouraged to protect the integrity of the local communities

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

it annoys me that the govt. has focused on district councils city councils with total disregard for the role that environmental councils have in the safety and flood mitigation areas

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

I think our local council needs a big shake up. We have people breaking local council rules/ laws and getting away with it based on where they work and who they know. This comes at other rate payers expense.

If we were joined with another council EVERYONE would have to follow the Regional rules and local politics wouldn't come into account.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

The same rules applying for everyone and everyone being held to account.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

2

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

People might actually be held accountable.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Clinton-Clydevale

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

I believe it will be a disadvantage. With a loss of representation, services and culture.

An advantage would be if retained and maintained services at no extra cost. However, Dunedin would not want to subsidise the country and I don't expect them to.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

I don't believe there will be any at all.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

We would fund another mega build in Dunedin and a 1000 more staff that don't support our district. Our rates will be used for it.

At the end of the day, we have to pay for our own costs, and nothing will change that.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

We have one of the biggest areas of land with a relative low population, there is a cost to this and having to fund a mega office in glitter and gold will diminish the value of our rate payments.

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Lawrence-Tuapeka

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

Other (please explain below): The amalgation format needs careful consideration. Do not shoehorn into preconceived ideas. Form before function.

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Efficiency and affordability of service delivery. Avoid duplication of essential services.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Streamlined service delivery, strategic outlook.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

2

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Local input/voice into local government is lost.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

This is a local government process - local democracy. Please do not make it a political jostling for power. Co-operation and good understanding of issues and options are important. As mentioned before, form before function. What does amalgamation want to achieve?

Response No:
177

Contribution ID: 2177

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 18, 2026, 11:31 AM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Catlins

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Money is evenly spread over all districts. Otago and southland are very different areas and communities will their own specific problems and needs and can any amalgamation really treat those issues fairly? Enough difficulty now within each individual council!

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Big is usually not better! Not sure amalgamation will achieve what government or local councillors think it will.

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Catlins

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

That we dont get pushed to the side because we are smaller. That our rates and debt dont go up more. I feel if this happends, cluths will lose out. So it doesn't mater what representation there is. The community arent heard now, theres no way someone would work for the community.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

None.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Clutha will fall into a hole and be pushed aside. Things will get missed out becuase bigger places need things more as they have bigger population .
We will get higher rates to cover all the things other places need.
I have seen this happen up north when kaipara joined with mangawhai. Kaipara missed out on things because managawhai was bigger and need more things to be done first.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Dont do it. But its not like the people will be listened to because everyone says the right things but there is no follow through, it doesnt mater how many people say no im sure the plan has already been put in process and doing this is just so you can tick the boxes, and make it appear you are asking the community.

Response No:
179

Contribution ID: 2175

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 18, 2026, 08:10 AM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Saving by amalgamation will ease rates pressure !

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Saving by amalgamation will ease rates pressure !

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Not enough representation

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Clearly the current situation is NOT sustainable, and I applaud the Govts proposal !

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Bruce-Waiholo

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Rural communities have interests in common. Staff have knowledge and skills in common. Even with amalgamation with other rural councils, we would still need mechanisms for more local interests to be heard. Would need to be able to vote in local wards at least.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Very little if any.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Loss of local autonomy. The biggest threat is amalgamation with Dunedin. Amalgamation with the other rural councils would be a lesser evil.

We have very little in common with Dunedin or any cities which cater for a huge transient student population who don't pay rates directly, move on after a few years and leave the locals with the consequences. We also have very little in common with Queenstown/Wanaka.

Dunedin has demonstrated it doesn't care one jot about the needs of the rural population who need to attend hospital appointments and can't use public transport. They don't care that to spend our hard earned export dollars in the city we need to be able to drive and park in the city. The improvements they make are fine for residents who live near the CBD, and especially for students, but they exclude the wider Otago population and ignore the age profile of the general population. Our voices will be drowned if we amalgamate with them

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Ideally I would not support any amalgamation, just vastly reducing the ORC and their staff. But here we are, not given a real choice anyway.

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Catlins

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Lower bloody rates increases. If I ran my household like you run the Council I'd be broke. At present based on 10% rates rises for the next 10 years I would be paying \$12600 per year.
No one in the last 10 years running the Council has any financial acumen at all.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Less overheads and lower rate rises

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

1

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

None. It can't possibly make it any worse than the job the present council is and has done

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Having people in charge of the Council who don't have any idea of financial accountability or acumen.
Gliding in and out of work at whatever time they please isn't on. 8 to 10 Council vehicles with one person in each heading up for a bite of lunch in Balclutha isn't smart either.

Generally the employee's at the Council have taken their position as a default cushy number with little accountability. Hence why they're not working in the Private sector where accountability is paramount.

Response No:
182

Contribution ID: 2172

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 17, 2026, 07:08 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Catlins

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Representation of rural issues (like rural water schemes) visitors. Roads etc

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Saving in the area of wages - cost duplications Which would expect to sauce the exorbitant rates we have now

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

4

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

It will be an opportunity for councillors and staff to add more costs under the banner of amalgamation

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Milton

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

The current system isn't working for many in our community, so I am open to amalgamation if it delivers better governance and financial stability. What matters most is retaining local representation, with guaranteed South Otago councillors and local boards that have genuine influence over decisions affecting our communities

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

I would expect to see better financial management, less bureaucracy and duplication, more accountability, and a more sustainable council with the ability to plan and deliver essential infrastructure properly. I would also hope for more consistent decision-making and better value for rate payers money.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

2

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

That nothing really changes. The Council name changes but the same issues remain, poor financial management, lack of accountability and community feeling ignored.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
184

Contribution ID: 2170

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 17, 2026, 05:17 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Keeping our rates rises to an affordable cost for everybody

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

More footpaths around our streets

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

We loose our local identity

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
185

Contribution ID: 2169

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 17, 2026, 05:02 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Milton

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

Other (please explain below): Status quo

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Keeping money local and not paying for other people's pipe dreams

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Nothing we will get ripped off more than we are now.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

4

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

We pay through for other areas that having to do with us

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Stop ripping us off and spending money we don't have

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

What matters most is equity for all Rate Payers, we need to all have access to good water and good waste water facilities, safe roads and rubbish disposal.
We need equity in our representation so that a good cross-section of voices are heard, including wage workers and small businesses.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Scale of economy advantages where there is better purchase power for the council, less overhead staff required, simplified systems where a lot of middle managerial positions are reduced.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Inheriting debt from other Councils and being caught up with dysfunctional councils such as the Dunedin District Council or being tied into property and infrastructure developments for places like Queenstown Lakes and Wanaka.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Stick to small rural communities with similar values, demographics and lifestyles of the Clutha District Council eg Gore but not Invercargill

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Catlins

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

I hope that Council will still be comprised of local people who understand the needs and wants of the communities they are from and that decisions are not made by those who sit at desks far away and have never been to the south!!

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Sharing resources, information and technology could be helpful for communities.
For example in the event of a natural disaster (weather event etc) in an area, machinery and manpower from another district could be mobilized.
The possibility of job opportunities shared and accommodation options.
Collaboration on environmental issues and the protection of natural resources.
High quality well maintained infrastructure benefits all communities and the practical distribution of skills and information would be advantageous across the wider districts.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

A big concern is that rural communities would be left without a voice and lose their identities and unique characteristics

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Milton

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

Other (please explain below): A community similar to us eg semi rural, some tourism, some climate challenges, some teenagers, some workers, some retirees

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

A mix of occupations, age groups & ethnic groups. Some who have lived here forever & some who are recent arrivals. People who care about environmental resilience & each other

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Better facilities - less la la buildings, eg why isn't the Clutha Council in the big 1/2 empty building in Balclutha, rather than up a side street ie more accessibility, more council outposts in small towns
Better infrastructure - sewage disposal, recycling,, monitoring of flood risks in areas, not just the Clutha river surrounds, more council officers who know the area & less contracted outs
Regional council responsibilities incorporated into councils, not overlaying them & not costing more.
Better preparedness for Civil Defence emergencies eg regular topping of threatening roadside trees, monitoring g of river levels, with advice to locals, rather than us always having to tell you
A local presence eg when was the last time a councilor visited a smaller or small community to eg hold a think tank, morning tea, hui. - esp over the recent rates plans. I know who our Parliament rep is but we never see either they or Council reps. Come & see what we get for our rates/taxes. Talk to ys

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Lack of visibility.
If its local government for the 30s- 50s & farmers that's non inclusive.
What's happening for the over 65's? We've paid rates for many years. Where are our buses to get us to the supermarket, doctors? Are they all privatized? Left to family who no longer live here?

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Why does it have to be government force
d?
Why hasn't there been proactivity re working with neighbours?
I'd rather be w Central Otago - Clutha River neighbours, than Dunedin, or Invercargill who have different issues.
We'd just subsidize their decisions.
What unites us w Central? The Clutha - we need to be acting together esp re risks. getting trucks off our roads of significance, controlling forestry slash, controlling wilding pines & the things that affect our livelihoods & economy, not the issues that affect Dunedin & Invercargill

Again - what are the choices - are we just bleating in the wind in this survey?

Response No:
189

Contribution ID: 2165

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 17, 2026, 12:48 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Catlins

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

unsure

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

unsure

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

rural areas will get forgotton

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

leave things alone if its not broken dont bloody fix it

Response No:
190

Contribution ID: 2164

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 17, 2026, 11:09 AM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Milton

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

That Clutha has a seat at the table. To me this would look like the Clutha region having at least 1 councilor

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Rates savings

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

2

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

That Clutha loses its voice and all decisions are made for Dunedin

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

We need to ensure that our voices are heard and our district's identity is not lost in an amalgamation so district-wide representation is extremely important. Whether that is by having community boards in each area so that we have a voice across each community in our district or some other method remains to be seen. Balclutha needs to remain a central hub for the Clutha district.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

hopefully cost savings, better infrastructure. However our neighbouring councils aren't exactly in a good financial space either!

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

That we lose our voice and our identity.
We are rural-based with different needs than our city neighbours so it will be interesting to see how an amalgamation would work if we ended up with DCC.
There would obviously be redundancies at CDC and that will have an impact on our district's families and towns.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

It has been nearly 40 years since the last amalgamation (1989) so it was only a matter of time sadly.
The most important thing is that we get to choose our own way and aren't forced into something different by central government!!

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Lawrence-Tuapeka

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Services are provided in an equitable way. Services like biosecurity protection continue. Our voices are heard and needs are met.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Less councillors but more skilled ones. Decision makers that are looking at things more holistically and integrated. Some costs reduced with one HR team and support teams etc.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

4

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Our voice is lost to the urban centres. Services aren't provided due to this or we end up paying for things that don't support us.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Whole of Otago amalgamation is the best option - we can't separate the Clutha river catchment - it makes sense for this all to be included in one council's responsibilities - mountains to sea. It's important that the regional council functions are retained to enhance the environment for future generations.

Response No:
193

Contribution ID: 2161

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 17, 2026, 08:21 AM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

West Otago

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

To have representation

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Infrastructure work done quicker with shared costs.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

3

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

We get forgotten as little communities everything goes to the bigger populated areas.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
194

Contribution ID: 2160

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 16, 2026, 11:46 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Bruce-Waihola

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

3

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Lawrence-Tuapeka

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

Other (please explain below): The decision as to what the council looks like after the pros and cons are weighed up rather than setting the boundaries first.

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

It must be proper equal amalgamation rather than another attempt as was made in 1989. Clutha is still operating as a lot of small areas rather than a whole district. Variation in governance, variation in some rates particularly water. Some have to pay full water cost and others get the same water at an averaged urban cost.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Some economies of scale. Administration should be able to be reduced with scale. One mayor, one CEO etc.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

3

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

If the Clutha district sees itself as being a separate part of the new district we will see no benefit. Amalgamation must see all communities becoming one united body or the exercise is pointless and costly.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Unless there is a real willingness to join together showing some real cost benefit don't do it. We heard all the promises at the last election how the previous governance group had let the costs run away and that would be improved but it's got worse. Unless there is clear evidence that bigger will be better don't.

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Kaitangata-Matau

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

- Small communities not to be forgotten.
- Also to keep good accessibility of the council services.
- And to keep the rates down.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

I believe only big cities will win from this, not medium size or small.
I don't believe that amalgamation will bring better services to the communities.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

I cannot imagine how one council in Otago can do everything what all current councils do. It will be chaos.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

It is a waste of time and money.

Response No:
197

Contribution ID: 2157

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 16, 2026, 08:45 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Clinton-Clydevale

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Still retaining councillors that represent existing wards.
Getting value for rates paid which most rural settlement dont at the moment

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Major savings in salaries including CEO, CFO, and Dept Managers, Middle managers of each part of council.
The decrease in managers as actual staff will do the work without duplication of managers in each council

An increase in the "Share" of services paid for by rural communities but rarely given back to them

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

some decisions will be made regardless of local knowledge around 3 waters.
Other needs that rural communities require maybe overlooked to suit the larger towns

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Catlins

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

Other (please explain below): Wouldn't it make sense for amalgamation to include the districts which the water is going ahead with.

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Make sure that each local communities differences are recognised.
Representation for each community is a good question, waiting to see what amalgamation looks like may be easier to decide local representation.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

A drop in rates, better purchasing power for the larger council identity, better options for contracts that the larger council need to access. Making every day life more affordable, more people to pay for services should mean more affordability.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

We lose the identity that has been worked so hard to establish.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Similar to the 1980's I'm sure there are concerns about job safety for council staff and those they contract. Interesting but somewhat concerning times ahead.

Response No:
199

Contribution ID: 2155

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 16, 2026, 06:14 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Balclutha

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Pricing being reasonable, transparent justification for budget spend and upkeep on current public services.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Staff expertise and more continuity in forward planning.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

2

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Loss of good jobs in smaller districts

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

NA

Response No:
200

Contribution ID: 2154

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 16, 2026, 05:52 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Milton

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Getting back to basics and get the costs down

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Don't know

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Keeping it local

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
201

Contribution ID: 2153

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 16, 2026, 05:32 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Catlins

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Save costs and go with big city. Retain local voice somehow.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Reduced costs and lower rates.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

2

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Some stuff still being local.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
202

Contribution ID: 2152

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 16, 2026, 05:16 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Clinton-Clydevale

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

The rural areas should be grouped together. Do not want to lose rural voice. While cities have higher population, rural districts have a higher amount of land.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Rural councils working together to share resources and get better outcomes

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Loss of rural voice.
Loss of jobs at local council level could affect our communities.
Want decision making made locally as our people know our area. Don't want cities making decisions for us.

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
203

Contribution ID: 2151

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 16, 2026, 04:50 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Clinton-Clydevale

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Ensuring the rural voice

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Loss of local decision making

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
204

Contribution ID: 2150

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 16, 2026, 04:24 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Kaitangata-Matau

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

We keep equal decision making, not population based, if not dunedin would have all the power. Also so need to go back to the catchment board days to look after our flood and drainage schemes

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Better decision making and lower rate of rates rise

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

We lose our local input and say

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Kaitangata-Matau

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

We need a council that knows their district and its needs and listens to the ratepayers without the unnecessary spending of money on things nobody wants

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Nothing. There are already enough issues with our council understanding their current constituents without merging with another council and everything going to custard

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Nearby councils are more urban and they don't understand the rural needs that our district has. Plus we would be taking on other councils poorly maintained assets = more costs to the rate payers

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Don't do it!!

Response No:
206

Contribution ID: 2148

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 16, 2026, 01:13 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Kaitangata-Matau

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Rates

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Lower rates
More accountability on spending

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

4

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

We paid to fund other area

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Lawrence-Tuapeka

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

For it to go ahead I would want to see the basics done well. Attention to infrastructure resilience such and stormwater drains and cleaning of all roadside drains. As this significantly reduces the ability for water to receed in large weather events.

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Maybe some proper scheduling of routine works instead of scraping road edging at the end of the financial year to burn up unspent budgets

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

4

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Larger area, costing more and providing less

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
208

Contribution ID: 2146

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 16, 2026, 12:26 PM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Clinton-Clydevale

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

4

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
209

Contribution ID: 2145

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 16, 2026, 11:49 AM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

I am a Clutha District ratepayer living out of the district

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

4

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Lawrence-Tuapeka

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

Other (please explain below): Not sure. Need more info on the different structures. Would like to know what would benefit our area most

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Retaining our small area's identity and priorities. Knowing that our rates are still spent here (as an example, Southland is worried about Queenstown draining financial resources).

Local representation means proportionally elected representation in any decision making body. This also means our local reps listen to their community before contributing to larger decisions on our behalf

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Maybe less "old boy" type networking/dealing if more voices are at the table. Hopefully fair distribution of funds and other resources. More oversight. All maybes, of course.

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

That small, rural towns will fall even further behind when it comes to distribution of resources (roading and infrastructure health care, education, jobs)

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

This process feels rushed and heavy handed on the part of the national govt. Especially given the past resistance to any attempts at centralisation. Now it's simply a mandate with no alternatives considered

Response No:
211

Contribution ID: 2143

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 16, 2026, 10:57 AM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Bruce-Waihola

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

An Otago-wide unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

I would still want local representation, but unsure how this would happen without having a huge number of councillors. I can see how the business itself could be streamlined, but i wouldn't want to see small regions being "ignored".

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Hopefully "city money" funnelling out to the regions. Cost cuts as services are streamlined

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Smaller areas being forgotten about or not represented as much as they currently are in Clutha

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
212

Contribution ID: 2142

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 16, 2026, 10:53 AM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

West Otago

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Locals looking after locals, employ our local people to work in our own community- local people know our place the best

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

None

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

5

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

We will become just a number and our identity will disappear as a rural town. We love our community and we need to stay as a tight knit community that supports ourselves

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

To amalgamate is to combine different things to create something new.

Loss of community

Loss of identity

Loss of our assets that have been long paid for by our fore-bearers

Response No:
213

Contribution ID: 2141

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 16, 2026, 10:50 AM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

Bruce-Waiholo

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Lower rates. User pays, stop unnecessary spending

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Sharing resources

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Rate increases spending

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text

Response No:
214

Contribution ID: 2140

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Jun 16, 2026, 10:38 AM

Q1 Which ward do you live in?

Multi Choice

West Otago

Q2 Which of these options would you prefer to be part of?

Select Box

A separate, rural-focused unitary council

Q3 What do you think matters most to your community if councils are amalgamated, and what would local community representation look like to you?

Long Text

Local representation on council and a community board

Q4 What are the major benefits you would expect to see from amalgamation?

Long Text

Cost saving

Q5 How important is it for your community to retain its local identity?

Rating

4

Q6 What are your biggest concerns if the Clutha District is amalgamated?

Long Text

Loss of services

Q7 Use this space to give us any other feedback about amalgamation.

Long Text