

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Sydney, 14th April, 1859.

## MUNICIPAL INSTITUTIONS.

## PORT MACQUARIE COUNTER PETITION.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL, with the advice of the EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, has directed the publication of the substance and prayer of a Counter Petition to His Excellency as hereinafter set forth, presented on the 25th ultimo, and signed by one hundred and twenty inhabitants of Port Macquarie, and of the Districts of Camden Haven, the Hastings, and Rolland's Plains; such Counter Petition being in opposition to a Petition previously presented from the same locality, and gazetted on the 29th January, 11th, 18th, 25th; February; 8th, 22nd March, and 5th instant.

CHARLES COWPER.

THE Counter Petitioners state that a Petition has been forwarded to His Excellency, praying for the incorporation of Port Macquarie, embracing therein distant agricultural and pastoral districts, under the Municipalities Act, and they express their unqualified dissent to the establishment of such Municipality for reasons which they state as follows:—

That, while recognising 'as they do the principles involved in, and the advantages to be anticipated from a sound and well organized system of self-government in the administration of their local affairs, they are at the same time under the strongest conviction, looking to the actual circumstances of their respective localities, that the proposed Municipality is prematurely applied for.

That, having reference to the *extreme paucity* of population, as compared with the extensive area of land contained within the limits of the suggested Municipality—to the difficulty and litigation that must necessarily attend the levying an assessment on a very considerable portion of unoccupied lands, held under doubtful tenures, or the real owners of which are not known—to the present reduced condition of Port Macquarie itself, and also to the low circumstances of the majority of the settlers who have but recently located in the Districts: The Petitioners are wholly unable to discern how, without resorting to *inequitable taxation* on the comparatively few properties capable of being assessed, anything approximating to an adequate income can be raised, or such other satisfactory arrangements made for their self-government, as would give any hope of the Municipality Act being carried into beneficial effect for the general interests of all concerned.

That, further, they believe that under the existing state of things, any attempt at *local taxation* would have the effect of retarding, if not of preventing altogether any further accession of that class of population to the Districts which can alone create a value to the waste and unoccupied lands, public and private.

That with regard to the Petition already before His Excellency, they venture to raise the question whether in seeking to include such an area of distant agricultural and pastoral lands, it does not pray for a "Municipality" not contemplated by the present Act of the Legislature, and they further draw attention to the fact, that only a very limited number of those who signed the Petition have any real stake in the District, and that while some signed under the influence of

misrepresentation as to the tenor of the document, others did so under a misconception of its merits, and who now desire to remedy the error by becoming parties to the present Petition, as will be noticed on a reference to the respective documents.

That taking the foregoing premises into consideration, they are unable to come to any other conclusion than that to grant the Act of Incorporation petitioned for, would be to inflict a serious permanent evil on the best interests of the Districts at large, which are now only slowly recovering from the prostration to which their capabilities have for several years past been subjected.

The Petitioners therefore pray:—"That His Excellency will be pleased to withhold his assent accordingly."

Marcus F. Brownrigg, J.P., freehold, Glencoe, Rolland's Plains.

J. Rowsell, lease, Glencoe, Rolland's Plains  
William Rowsell, lease, Glencoe, Rolland's Plains.

William Gaddes, freehold, Cogo, Rolland's Plains.

Hugh Mackey, freehold, Cogo, Rolland's Plains.

William M'Kay, freehold, Cogo, Rolland's Plains.

Donald M'Kay, freehold, Cogo, Rolland's Plains.

Alexander M'Kay, freehold, Cogo, Rolland's Plains.

Mitchel Mackay, freehold, Cogo, Rolland's Plains.

Alexander Mackay, freehold, Cogo, Rolland's Plains.

John M'Kay, freehold, Cogo, Rolland's Plains.

James Curtis, dwelling, Walliby Hill, Rolland's Plains.

Charles Fowler, lease, Walliby Hill, Rolland's Plains.

Wm. Woodlands, freeholder, Rolland's Plains.  
Henry Woodlands, dwelling, Rolland's Plains.

James Dayley, dwelling, Rolland's Plains.

Henry Sansom, dwelling, Rolland's Plains.

Henry Grimwood, dwelling, Rolland's Plains.

Henry Brown, dwelling, Rolland's Plains.

Robert Woodlands, freeholder, Rolland's Plains.

James Henry, lease, Rolland's Plains.

John Spokes, lease, Rolland's Plains.

William Lovelock, dwelling, Rolland's Plains.

J. Hamilton, freehold, Rolland's Plains.

John Spokes, dwelling, Rolland's Plains.

Joseph Aldridge, lease, Rolland's Plains.

Robt. Fisher, lease, Rolland's Plains.

Thomas Fisher, lease, Rolland's Plains.

William Dyson, lease, Rolland's Plains.

Thomas Fearby, dwelling, Rolland's Plains.

William Wallace, freehold, Rolland's Plains.

Thomas Wallace, freehold, Rolland's Plains.

Sam. Jonston, lease, Rolland's Plains.

William Wallace, freehold, Rolland's Plains.

Henry Lewis Wilson, freehold, Glen Garry, Rolland's Plains.

Arthur Edward Wilson, freehold, Glen Garry, Rolland's Plains.

Napoleon Wilson, freehold, Glen Garry, Rolland's Plains.

Benjamin Reed, dwelling, Glen Garry, Rolland's Plains.

William Bellingham, dwelling, Glen Garry, Rolland's Plains.

Thomas Dwyer, dwelling, Glen Garry, Rolland's Plains.

Daniel Macarthy, dwelling, Glen Garry, Rolland's Plains

Richard Lainey, lease, Rolland's Plains

William White, lease, Rolland's Plains

George Kesby, lease, Rolland's Plains

James Hinder, lease, Rolland's Plains

William Hill, lease, Rolland's Plains

Wm. Burton, dwelling, Rolland's Plains

Geo. Halliday, freehold, Rolland's Plains

M. Fahy, dwelling, Rolland's Plains

H. Halliday, freehold, Rolland's Plains

Henry Churchill, lease, Rolland's Plains

Charles Churchill, lease, Rolland's Plains

William Smith, dwelling, Rolland's Plains

Thomas Farrowell, freehold, Rolland's Plains

John Webster, freehold, Rolland's Plains

Thomas Mackey, lease, Rolland's Plains

Clement Stewart, freehold, Rolland's Plains

Joseph Henry, lease, Rolland's Plains

G. A. C. Innes, Lake Innes, Port Macquarie, freehold

J. Branch, Port Macquarie, lease

Joseph Phillip, Port Macquarie, freehold

Charles Watts, Port Macquarie, freehold

William Branch, Port Macquarie, freehold

T. C. P. Morton, R. N., Port Macquarie, freehold

W. H. Freeman, J.P., Port Macquarie, freehold

Frank Freeman, Port Macquarie, freehold

C. Doyle, Port Macquarie, freehold

John Doyle, Port Macquarie, freehold

William Dolaforse, Port Macquarie, lease

Silas Gill, Hastings River, freehold

Charles Lockton, Hastings River, freehold

James Battwood, Hastings River, freehold

James M'Clean, Hastings River, freehold

Patrick Kenny, Hastings River, freehold

Donald Cameron, Hastings River, freehold

Henry H. Parker, Hastings River, freehold

William S. Parker, Hastings River, freehold

Finlay Kerr, Hastings River, freehold

Robert Robertson, Hastings River, freehold

Bernard O. Dorety, Hastings River, freehold

Dugald M'Kenzie, Hastings River, freehold

Keneth M'Kenzie, Hastings River, freehold

Duncan M'Kenzie, Hastings River, freehold

Andrew Robb, Hastings River, dwelling

Thomas Carney, Hastings River, freehold

John Gilles, Hastings River, lease

John Warwick, Hastings River, freehold

Samuel Johns, Hastings River, freehold

Duncan McLennan, Hastings River, freehold

Murdoch McLennan, Hastings River, freehold

Patrick Meann, Hastings River, freehold

George James Munford, Hastings River, freehold

Newman Hollis, Hastings River, freehold

Matthew Kirkman, Hastings River, freehold

Peter Johnston, Hastings River, lease

John Wallis, Hastings River, lease

James Wallis, Hastings River, lease

James Scott, Port Macquarie, freehold

James Palmer, Hastings River, lease

Henry Osbourn, Hastings River, lease

John Kelling, freehold, North Shore

John Hebbel, freehold, near Port Macquarie

Edward Secombe, lease, near Port Macquarie

John Secombe, lease, near Port Macquarie

E. C. Naylor, lease, near Port Macquarie

G. W. Sutton, freehold, near Port Macquarie

Charles V. Naylor, dwelling, near Port Macquarie

Edward Reed, freehold, near Port Macquarie

James White, freeholder, near Port Macquarie

Alfred Jones, leaseholder, near Port Macquarie

Michael Crilay, lease, near Port Macquarie

John Maher, freehold, near Port Macquarie

Cornelius Ryan, freehold, near Port Macquarie

William Lewis

James Young, freehold, near Port Macquarie

H. Young, resident, near Port Macquarie

S. W. Halloran, leasehold and freehold, near Macquarie

P. W. Rigney, freeholder, Wilson River

John Smith, resident, Wilson River

Thomas G. Hind, householder, Wilson River