

## Inquiry into Local Government in New South Wales



### Save Our Councils Coalition

**Questions on Notice from Parliamentary Inquiry 10 August 2015 – see pages 80 and 81 of the transcript.**

**A. Does Save Our Councils Coalition (SOCC) have a view on a Regional Organisational Model for Metropolitan Sydney?**

SOCC would support a Regional Organisational Model for Metropolitan Sydney where the decision-making remains with the local elected body, the local council.

#### **1. INDEPENDENT LOCAL COUNCILS**

- Local decision-making is retained.
- Local communities and local government areas which highlight the local identity, a sense of belonging and a community of interest.
- Local councils servicing the present and future needs of their local communities.
- Neighbouring councils joining as members of a regional organisation that benefits their local community and region.

#### **2. JOINT REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

- SOCC supports regional groupings of local councils, be they called a ‘Regional Organisation of Councils’ (ROC), or a ‘Joint Organisation’ (JO) or a ‘Joint Regional Authority’ (JRA), that enable savings back to the individual councils by way of shared procurement of goods and services and a sharing of resources and efficiencies.
- **Key Functions:**
  - Shared procurement of goods and services that provide value and cost savings.
  - Shared resources and efficiencies that provide best value and cost savings.
  - Ensuring all goods, services and efficiencies provide proven benefits for community and meet the values and culture of each council area.
  - Shared regional leadership and advocacy to State and Federal Government.
  - Working as a team and partner with State and Federal Governments on regional issues and strategies.

- **Key Features:**

- The Regional Organisation to be a statutory body run by and for member councils, without interference from the State Government.
- Each local council to be an equal member of the Regional Organisation, with equal voting on the Regional Board.
- The Board to consist of councillors elected by their council to the Board.
- Council representatives on the Board each to have one vote, and to be bound by the decisions of their council including on agenda items.
- Decision-making of the Board to be unanimous.
- The Board and its council representatives to be subject to the same code of conduct and meeting procedure as a local council, with meetings open to the public.

**B. What proportion of SOCC members are mayors and councillors?**

Mayors and Councillors as individual members of SOCC proportion approximately 15%.

Mayors and Councillors as supporters (having voted as a council to pledge to support SOCC) plus individual members total proportion approximately 25%.

**Save Our Councils Coalition**

**Phil Jenkyn**

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Dated: 28 August 2015