

The Director
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 6
Parliament House
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Dear Madam/Sir

Parliamentary Inquiry into the State Government's Fit for the Future Local Government Reform Agenda

In my local government area of Ryde the State Government is proposing:

1. That Ryde be split with one third going to Parramatta, Auburn and Holroyd to make a mega Council for reasons including:
 - The new Council will have a projected 2031 population of 558,500;
 - Close functional interaction and economic/social links between these councils;
 - Need for stronger unified local government to develop Parramatta as the second CBD;
 - Parramatta's northern boundary is very close to its CBD; relocation to M2 would facilitate planning and improve socio-economic mix and community linkages; and
 - Incorporating part of Ryde would strengthen link between Parramatta and 'Global Sydney Corridor' and improve scope for integrated planning around Epping station.
2. Amalgamation of the remaining two thirds of Ryde with Hunter's Hill, Lane Cove, Mosman, North Sydney and Willoughby Councils for reasons including:
 - The new Council will have a projected 2031 population of 365,400;
 - Close functional interaction and economic/social links between these Councils;
 - Need for integrated planning for major centres, Sydney Harbour foreshores, etc ; and
 - 3 of these Councils are projected to have fewer than 50,000 people in 2031.

I **agree** with this approach of the State Government for Ryde for these reasons:

- Amalgamations are likely to make councils more financially efficient in the long run;
- Amalgamations will provide one big Council with a bigger rate base that can employ more staff to provide more services as a Council;
- I support Parramatta to become a better performing Council and CBD, which is to everyone's benefit;
- I am hopeful that my rates will reduce;

- Whilst an amalgamated Council will reduce Councillor representation, a bigger Council can do more at the regional level and form stronger partnerships with State Government; and
- I believe that State Government has the right solution and it should be supported.