

INQUIRY INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 7/07/2015

Partially Confidential

NAME SUPPRESSED

CONFIDENTIAL

The Director

General Purpose Standing Committee No.6

Parliament House

Macquarie St

Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Ms. Foley,

Re: Local government in New South Wales (Inquiry)

I am a Randwick City Council resident who has spent countless hours at RCC meetings dealing with proposed council amalgamation issues. It is my understanding that -

1. Randwick councillors have unanimously adopted a "stand alone position".- which I greatly applaud. BUT :-
2. That despite constant pleas from residents that a referendum or plebiscite be held on the amalgamation issue, residents were told at a Council meeting that it is not possible to do so.
3. That the majority of Randwick councillors feel they are being forced into accepting amalgamation or they will be dismissed and an administrator be appointed to RCC – for example, a letter sent to the "Southern Courier" by Cr. Stavrinou stating that RCC had no choice but to amalgamate, and a statement by Cr. Matson that RCC has a "gun to its head" to amalgamate.
4. That RCC's "Fit for the Future" survey was a blatant push-polling document and is being used by a majority of councillors to take residents where they do not wish to go.
5. That NEVER has RCC put forward the option for NOT amalgamating even though ALL Randwick Precinct Committees have opposed amalgamation.
6. That: (a) Liberal Party stated policy is no forced amalgamations; (b) the Greens State policy is no amalgamations; (c) the state Labor Party policy is no amalgamations.
- Yet a majority of RCC councillors is pushing ahead to bring about the annihilation of the 155-year old local government area – the boundaries of which have remained fundamentally unchanged over that entire period.

What sort of advice are these councillors getting?

Yours most sincerely concerned,