

## **INQUIRY INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

**Name:** Ms Roberta Burke

**Date received:** 3/06/2015

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**From:** Roberta Burke

**Date:** 3 June 2015 11:38:25 am AEST

**Subject:** the Inquiry into Local government in New South Wales

The Hon. Paul GREEN, MLC

Dear Sir,

I see that you are the Chair of the Inquiry into Local Government in NSW, which I understand is considering the Government's proposals for the amalgamation of local Councils.

I am a resident of Glebe, which is looked after by the City of Sydney Council, and we are very well looked after indeed. This Council consults residents widely, and seems to have a compassionate and human response to community needs, for instance the homeless. It is possible to contact a Councillor, by email, mail or phone, or at one of the many community gatherings it organises, and it is ALWAYS possible to speak to an informed Council employee by phone. This is what a local Council should do, of course.

The Government's proposal is to amalgamate this Council with four other inner city Councils which, I'm told, would give the Council more than 500,000 residents to care for. Will it be *possible* to respond to the needs of residents and business in a personal way with this large an electorate. Besides, the responsibilities of the Council of the City of Sydney is surely somewhat different to the responsibilities of smaller urban Council.

I'm especially impressed with the festivals and special events hosted by the CoS Council, which surely make our city one of the best in the world. Also with their plan for Light Rail in George Street, which will relieve the *hopeless* traffic jam we now encounter when going into the city.

In all the information about the proposed amalgamations, I haven't yet found the Government's reason for this. Could you let me know why it is considered important to amalgamate?

Yours sincerely,

Roberta Burke