

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

Name: Mr Phillip Ward

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Monday 29 June 2015

The Director
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 6
Parliament House
Macquarie St
Sydney NSW 2000

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 that the City of Ryde be split with one third going to Parramatta, Auburn and Holroyd to make a mega Council, and the remaining two thirds being combined with Hunter's Hill, Lane Cove, Mosman, North Sydney and Willoughby Councils.

I disagree with this approach.

I support what my local Council, the City of Ryde is proposing: for Ryde to stand alone and continue to deliver local services and address local issues, in addition to working in partnership with neighbouring Councils, Lane Cove and Hunters Hill on regional matters to achieve efficiencies through shared services.

I support the City of Ryde's approach for these reasons:

- The regional partnership model would mean local issues stay local and regional matters are dealt with at the regional level by the three Councils working together.
- This solution is a much more efficient and economical means for ratepayers to keep our high level of access to our local representatives and be able to participate in local decisions that affect our neighbourhoods and suburbs.
- Local Councils are best placed to identify and address the needs of local communities.
- Ryde's local identity and heritage would remain and be valued by current and future local families and workers.
- Through a regional partnership with Lane Cove and Hunters Hill the community will have more involvement in regional planning and infrastructure matters like schools, health services, transport and environment.
- A regional partnership would enable Councils to share delivery of some services to provide efficiencies and economies of scale.
- The proposed region fits well with the current divisions of community and government organisations including:
 - NSW Dept of Education's Lane Cove Schools Network which extends west as far as Melrose Park
 - Scouts Australia Moocooboolah District embracing groups from Meadowbank through Hunters Hill to Lane Cove
 - local environment groups concerned with natural areas in the lower Lane Cove River catchment area

I do not understand how large-scale amalgamations will benefit communities. I believe that the Committee should consider the benefits of partnerships and the joint collaboration model as proposed by the City of Ryde.

Yours sincerely,

Phillip Ward