

## INQUIRY INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

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 **Lane Cove** the State Government is proposing that our Council be merged with Hunter's Hill, Mosman, North Sydney, Willoughby and two-thirds of Ryde.

**I do not support the forced merging of Lane Cove Council** for the following reasons:

As a former ratepayer of Cairns Regional Council I have experienced the failure of council mergers. Rates went up 15% in the first year, services went down and former councils like Port Douglas only had one counsellor representing them, so were outvoted on most things. The councils were de amalgamated at the last council election showing what a failure the merger was;

The Government has not provided any evidence that amalgamations will benefit communities;

The Government has not undertaken any community consultation with ratepayers to find out what they want;

Currently Lane Cove is financially sustainable and has no debt. Amalgamations cost a lot of money and it is the ratepayers who will have to pay;

Local Councils are supposed to be local, being close to the people and working with communities to plan for neighbourhoods and town centres;

There will be a significant reduction in Councillors meaning we will have less representation of local issues in our community;

An amalgamation will bring the six different local council areas together, areas that are so different it will mean that the communities will get a one size-fits-all services, instead of services that are customised for each community of interest;

I think it is essential to keep the local in local government and Lane Cove currently has a high level of quality, well-supported community services.

I believe that the Committee should acknowledge my Council's ability to represent the needs of our local community and that they should not be forced to amalgamate.

Regards,