

INQUIRY INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Ms Margaret Hogg

Date received: 3/07/2015

Dear Tribunal,

Within this folio you will find a number of correspondence that points to:-

1. The PRESSURE that is felt on
 - Councillors;
 - Community;

In relation to the PROCESS that is being USED by this Current Government.

2. A photocopy of a booklet of information not independently audited-with Woollahra figures changed after the release on inspection. Of The "Fit For the Future Information Booklet" put out by Randwick Council.

-community precincts rejected this booklet to council and seriously questioned the lack of evidence of the figures and their sources for checking (while council said it was all there on the web site, it was never the original source figures, to be verified by independent audits . I note that the sources for the information of some councils seems to have come from differing sources but still compared??I believe these figures are suspect and need INDEPENDENT and thorough investigation and AUDIT);

3. You will also see the survey booklet and from another submission from Jaya Sooriah.

-a very intensive investigation by this highly qualified and experienced Chair of the La Perouse Precinct of Randwick City Council Area who has analysed this "Survey" and the responses and can find no other response than the survey is directed to achieve mergers and that the information gained has been either tampered or miss represented.

There is only one outcome that is unmistakable and that is that the majority of the population does not want Amalgamation.

Anything else is illegitimate (his submission will present this on Much more detail)

I make note also that he found surveys filled in from Malaysia; Anna Bay; Vacluse –completely out of area and yet counted. He went in and looked at each survey and I am sure you will find his finding unsettling and upsetting But will lend weight to the completely illegitimate way in which this process has been used and scripted by this Government to achieve "mergers" . This is a FORCED and MANIPULATED and ILLEGITIMATE process.

4. Tapes of 2 meetings that were the final nail in Randwick community coffin. Their wishes ignored; reason and rational argument ignored and above all THEIR WILL DENIED. - This will be painful for some of

you but it is required to hear the efforts made and information so miss represented and miss used.

-Process and protocol not properly carried out as this Fit For the Future /IPART and strategies twist their way to a FORCED and unsubstantiated, BY AND In the Public Long term Best interest of Cost Benefit Analysis proof.

The PUBLIC has been denied its voice and all attempts to let the people decide voted DOWN by councillors who swore to represent them. Yet do not want them to speak. There is much that is not in line with the directives of the Local Government act (to fully inform and seek feedback. Verify and work in their best interests NOT those of individual Councillors and General Managers.)

The motions made to achieve this merger motion that condemns our council is completely illegitimate in argument and fact.

You will hear the General Manager asked to answer why we couldn't have a referendum and he refer to information that they (the electoral office) would not release information and it was not possible.

You will also hear Councillor Tony Bowen table a letter that is from the state electoral office indicating that while a referendum would need to be called by the Premier they could assist with a Mail service that would have been much better. ..Randwick never followed up...

-this is seen as a direct LIE to the Public and council by the Randwick General Manager and again points to the process we have been forced to endure is enabling self-interest and corruption to be suggested. This is so far from a fair and JUST system that it should be abandoned and a STATE WIDE REFERENDUM be called to first and foremost see just who wants to Amalgamate (in a democratic way)—giving substance to the promise given to the public by the Premier at the last election of NO FORCED AMALGAMATIONS. For until this is established and those who wish it identified PROPERLY. There can be no move toward ANY MERGERS in a DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM.

You will hear desperate attempts by some councillors who were listening to their community to have the issues PUT TO THE COMMUNITY-denied again and again.

Public press and Media have reported Mr O'Toole – the minister directly responsible to the Premier for the implementation of his Amalgamations process. Mr O'Toole says that there is no option NOT to amalgamate and he says he will force Amalgamation if he has to.

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This is what our representatives have been forced to deal with.

This is proof of the LIE that the public was told by this Government at the last election.

On one hand you have a Premier saying one thing but Mr O'Toole as his HENCH MAN, is implementing and one would have to see this as the direction of the Premier and the party (despite whatever they may be saying to the public).

This is clearly WRONG and if the powers do not exist they should, to take the people BACK TO THE POLLS (Something to work on or to, please- this is false information to the public and FRAUD on the public- it is our taxes that are paying for this- if you follow the money you will find the fraud).

The responsibility you all have in upholding the democratic system of this Country has never been so important.

The implications of the laws that have already been changed in Planning and the Gate ways this Amalgamation instrument will give to developers at the cost of the Community is staggering to even contemplate.

The Eastern Suburbs and the CBD and South East Light Rail is testament to the NEED for Community input. This type of planning is what this FFTF is supposed to be aiding BUT the community have had no REAL say.

Just like the UAP that Premier O'Farrell tried to impose on us. A Precinct of high rise with again NO REAL infrastructure or environmental ability to sustain it. The public had to SMUGGLE photos from the rooms that had been set up to hold "TOKEN" community consultations that were in fact ...this is what is going to happen events...

So intense was the public disapproval the idea was shelved and has now come back in the form of the light Rail that achieves the desired and STILL UNSUSTAINABLE 20-30 storey high rise.

IF

The community had been listened to YOU and the Parliament and the Government would have learned that the said \$2.2++ BILLION it was preparing to spend is going to cause traffic chaos across the entire CBD and lead to economic downturn across the entire CBD. A project so twisted and FALSE in its presentation to the public to also be called FRAUD (especially when you look at the billions of taxes being spend to give developers (LOBBYISTS) profits. With a plan that decreases transport capacities and takes away 2 tax paid traffic lanes on some of the busiest access routes across the city; restricts Hospital and Health service access; heritage; environment and public amenities and assets again dismissed and destroyed etc. etc. etc....

A Business case of propaganda rather than substantiated FACTs and figures- still not presented (this plan is a FRAUD ON THE PUBLIC!)

This is what happens when you take the public out of the picture.

Disaster and irresponsible planning and corruption is allowed IN.

Libraries; playing/sports fields; Schools; entire communities and the small business etc. that rely on each other to sustain and our economy is at risk.

I implore you all to fix this.
Find and rule for a referendum.
NO MUDDY WATERS

Do you want your council to Amalgamate?
YES or NO

The ONLY question that can legitimise any further process.

NB. Councils have always had the ability to merge if it was best. Many who have are case studies of how it does not necessarily work for the best and how much rates money can be wasted in the process.-There are many others and not much in the defence of this move eg. Canada Bay merger figures over time indicating

increase debt and various other social and economic negatives

-except when you look at developers/Lobbyists side of the deal and that makes this FRAUD.

I sincerely place our hopes and aspirations for proper solution to this PROBLEM in your hands.

("Gods Blessings be with you to do the RIGHT THING FOR OUR PUBLIC AND DEMOCRACY")

Margaret Hogg