

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

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

**Parliamentary Inquiry into the State Government's Fit for the Future Local Government Reform Agenda**

I live in the Lane Cove Municipality and my wife works in Hunters Hill. I am strongly supportive of the state government proposal to amalgamate small Councils in northern Sydney.

Hunters Hill Council is far too small. It is financially struggling to provide basic local government services. It has very limited money to allocate for capital works which results in a lower standard of provision of basic infrastructure such as footpaths, parks, playgrounds etc. Amalgamating Hunters Hill with surrounding Councils would enable the financial windfalls from Councils such as Lane Cove and Ryde to be shared across a broader region and raise the level of service provision to an acceptable standard.

Hunters Hill Council also has difficulty providing the necessary range of staff with the depth of knowledge needed in modern local government. Most staff are managing numerous roles, in a similar way to small rural Councils. This is not acceptable. A larger Council area would mean a broader workforce with the necessary skills to effectively manage.

Western Sydney councils are large. Democracy works effectively in larger Councils. It is amazing that residents of Hunters Hill feel that they require one Councillor per 2,000 people when democracy in Blacktown works effectively with one Councillor per 16,000 people.

The communities of Hunters Hill, Lane Cove, Willoughby, North Sydney share a great many characteristics and common interests. Separate local governments for each small area are not required. There is close functional interaction and economic/social links between these Councils and we would be better served by a stronger unified local government. A bigger Council can do more at the regional level and form stronger partnerships with State Government

Please support the State government proposal for amalgamations of Councils and ensure that a decision is made as quickly as possible to allow local Councils to get back to the business of provision of local services rather than being distracted by fighting amalgamations.