

INQUIRY INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Name Suppressed

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Partially Confidential

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Inquiry into Forced Amalgamations of councils. I have very serious concerns about the political agenda behind this process by the Baird government. I do not believe that this process is in the best interests of residents. This is a way to minimise votes for Independents, and to make it easier for the state government to push through their own decisions - especially planning decisions that local communities do not agree with. I do not believe that 'bigger is better' necessarily, in fact I have yet to see a shred of evidence from the state government that this is so. I also am extremely concerned that this process is rushed, and was shocked to find out that IPART will only have one day to consider the submissions from each council. I do not feel that the amalgamation proposal for my Council is a good fit with my community. It seems obvious to me that the state government doesn't want my council to amalgamate with City of Sydney because that would shore up the position of the Independent mayor, and would likely maximise the Greens vote. I do not want to amalgamate with councils that are in a less secure financial position, or have very little in common with my community, and yet it seems that is what the state government is trying to force us to do. I am grateful to the Upper House members who have established this Inquiry.