

**Submission
No 179**

INQUIRY INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Ms Virginia Milson

Date received: 29/06/2015

THE PROPOSED AMALGAMATION OF WAVERLEY & RANDWICK COUNCILS

This is to advise you of my concern over the proposed amalgamation of Waverley and Randwick councils for the following reasons:

1. There were no community forums for Waverley residents where the facts -the advantages and disadvantages of amalgamation could have been interrogated.
2. The online survey by IRIS could be duplicated .
3. There were 1200 people surveyed for a population of over 70,000 residents .This might be statistically significant but is grossly inadequate for an issue as important as this with considerable implications on the municipality concerned.
4. With only an online survey and 600 residents phoned many residents would not have been surveyed. This is in light of approximately 15% of residents in Waverley not having an internet connection. While some residents could have adopted an alternative approach it is doubtful that many would have done so as it is too difficult without an internet connection.
5. A meeting for 9am on a Sunday morning was scheduled for Waverley council to decide on the outcome of a recession motion. This could have been decided earlier in the week in the course of a normal council meeting NOT on a Sunday morning. This would have prevented many residents attending due to weekend activities.
6. Those who attended the June 28th. meeting were prevented from speaking as it was a continuation of the previous meeting. It was stated that residents could have addressed that earlier meeting. The Council or Chair could have found a way to allow residents to address the June 28th. meeting.
7. At a recent Precinct meeting residents complained that they had not received the information apparently posted out by Council and they had not met anyone who had received the information.
8. Councillors could be contacted collectively via a joint email councillors@waverley.nsw.gov.au This address was frequently inoperative so residents understood they were contacting all councillors in vain as the emails were not being received.
9. The process seems to have been conducted with a lack of communication and in undue haste.