

**Submission  
No 180**

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

**Name:** Mr Shailesh Kantawala

**Date received:** 26/06/2015

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# Support for Local Council Amalgamations

From: Mr. Shailesh Kantawala,

The Director  
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 6  
Parliament House  
Macquarie St  
Sydney NSW 2000  
Fax: (02) 9230 2981

Dear Madam/Sir

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

**I would like to appear in person to speak directly to the members.**

**My details are included in the header section of this submission.**

In my local government area of **Hunters Hill** the State Government is proposing:

1. That Ryde be split with one third going to Parramatta, Auburn and Holroyd to make a mega Council for reasons including:
  - The new Council will have a projected 2031 population of 558,500;
  - Close functional interaction and economic/social links between these councils;
  - Need for stronger unified local government to develop Parramatta as the second CBD;
  - Parramatta's northern boundary is very close to its CBD; relocation to M2 would facilitate planning and improve socio-economic mix and community linkages; and
  - Incorporating part of Ryde would strengthen link between Parramatta and 'Global Sydney Corridor' and improve scope for integrated planning around Epping station.
2. Amalgamation of the remaining two thirds of Ryde with Hunters Hill, Lane Cove, Mosman, North Sydney and Willoughby Councils for reasons including:
  - The new Council will have a projected 2031 population of 365,400;
  - Close functional interaction and economic/social links between these Councils;

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- Need for integrated planning for major centres, Sydney Harbour foreshores, etc; and

3 of these Councils are projected to have fewer than 50,000 people in 2031.

I **agree** with this approach of the State Government for **Hunters Hill**, Ryde, etc. for the following reasons:

- (1) Amalgamations will reduce the stronghold of councillors and a select few influential people on the area. These people have been using their influence for decades in favour of themselves and their kith and kin.

For more concrete details, I would like to appear in person to speak directly to the members.

- (2) Amalgamations will also reduce the unfair (in my personal opinion) employment practices prevailing in the council.
- (3) New councillors and new employees will bring fresh ideas, innovations and fairness to all the residents.
- (4) Amalgamations are likely to reduce duplication of systems and services like Library, Payroll, Inventory, Rates, Maintenance, etc. which will make councils more financially efficient in the immediate near future.
- (5) I support Parramatta to become a better performing Council and CBD, which will reduce lots of congestion related problems currently existing in the CBD area of City of Sydney Council.
- (6) An amalgamated Council will not necessarily reduce Councillor representation, if number of councillors to population ratios is maintained as is now.

I believe that State Government has the right solution and it should be supported.

Sincerely yours,

Shailesh Kantawala

26<sup>th</sup> June, 2015