

**Submission
No 144**

INQUIRY INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Organisation: Lane Cove Bushland and Conservation Society

Date received: 2/07/2015



Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc

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ABN 50 518 833 556

The Director
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 6
Parliament House
Macquarie St
Sydney NSW 2000
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July 2 2015

Dear Sir or Madam

The Lane Cove Bushland and Conservation Society opposes the amalgamation of the municipality of Lane Cove with any other combination of councils. We fully support Lane Cove Council's objections to any amalgamation and also support the establishment of a Joint Regional Authority to work in partnership with other councils.

We attach our submissions to the Independent Local Government Review Panel and IPART which set out the reasons for our position and which are summarised below.

- 1 There is no conclusive evidence that amalgamations will benefit communities, indeed the body of evidence suggests the contrary. This evidence was either ignored or significantly undervalued by the Review.
- 2 There is no clear correlation between size and efficiency.
- 3 The proposed mega-councils will in no way be **local** government.
- 4 The Review did not seek broad public opinion or undertake community consultation on the value of local government.

The reviews proposals are a good illustration of the saying that for every complex problem there is a solution that is clear, simple, and wrong. Bigger is not necessarily better.

It is clear that the overwhelming majority of residents of metropolitan Sydney do not favour the proposed amalgamations and that there is clear evidence of the lack of any benefits. If the Government proceeds with forced amalgamations then there must be some unstated, but probably political, agenda, which must be resisted.

Yours sincerely

Graham Holland, Vice President, Lane Cove Bushland and Conservation Society.
Attached: 3 submissions.