

## **Annexure 4**

### **Community Consultation**

In order to ensure the community had an opportunity to provide feedback on the future of the City of Kogarah an extensive consultation process was undertaken, including:

- Detailed information placed on Council's website from November 2014.
- Background information provided in the March 2015 Kogarahlife.
- A 12 page information brochure titled 'The Future of the City of Kogarah' distributed to all households in the Kogarah LGA in April 2015. This information outlined a range of options for the community to consider and ways in which they could provide feedback to Council.
- A telephone survey of 600 residents randomly selected and conducted by an independent consultant in May 2015.
- An online survey available on Council's website and a hard copy of this survey distributed to all households in the information brochure 'The Future of the City of Kogarah'.
- A dedicated email address established to receive responses.
- Two consultation sessions conducted with Council's Community Reference Group (October 2014 and May 2015).

Copies of the abovementioned consultation material, results and letters received by Council have been included on the following pages.

Overwhelmingly the community stated that the option presented for Kogarah to stand alone was the preferred option. A total of 85% of those surveyed through Council's telephone survey and 91% of those who responded to the survey online or through the information brochure responded in that manner. The Community Reference Group unanimously supported the Kogarah City Council option (stand-alone / existing structure).



**KOGARAH CITY COUNCIL**  
*a better lifestyle*

**APRIL 2015**



# the Future of the CITY OF KOGARAH

WHAT THE NSW GOVERNMENT'S  
'FIT FOR THE FUTURE' PROGRAM  
MEANS FOR THE CITY OF KOGARAH





## Mayor's Message

CR MICHAEL PLATT  
MAYOR  
THE CITY OF KOGARAH

In 2014, when I was elected as Mayor, I raised my concerns regarding the NSW Government's 'Fit for the Future' program which proposed the amalgamation of Kogarah City Council with Canterbury, Rockdale and Hurstville Councils. I expressed the view that any amalgamation would result in Kogarah's residents and ratepayers inheriting the accumulated debt and ongoing financial burden of improving the standard of infrastructure of other council areas.

Over the past few months, Council has been working to compile a range of comparative data that is required in responding to the NSW Government's 'Fit for the Future' program. The data clearly demonstrates that Kogarah City Council has the proven capacity to stand alone and that any amalgamation would have a detrimental impact on our community. Over the following pages you will see that independent analysis supports my view that we should not amalgamate.

We are in the enviable position of being debt free and infrastructure in our City is in good condition. Further, we have a proven record of innovation, best practice and financial management, with significant achievements across the spectrum of our services, many of which have been recognised at a local, national and international level.

At this point, it is our position that it is in the best interests of our residents that Kogarah stands alone and remains as Kogarah City Council. We cannot support any option to amalgamate with one or more of our neighbouring councils if the better lifestyle our residents currently enjoy is compromised. That lifestyle includes the existing quality of services and facilities within our City, the high level of access to Councillor representation as well as the preservation of our 'Kogarah' identity.

Your input will be crucial in Council's submission and I urge you all to take the time to read the information presented in this brochure and respond with your thoughts. In particular, I would like to highlight the information contained in the table on page 5 that shows under any amalgamation with one or more of our neighbouring councils, our residents would be burdened by rate increases ranging from \$146 to \$386 per annum. In addition, these tables show that Kogarah residents would also be exposed to the cost burden of up to \$22.5 million in debt and an asset funding gap of up to \$18.8 million from day one of any amalgamation.

It is my belief, given the outcomes of the independent analysis that any amalgamation would be to the detriment of our residents and expenditure would focus on improving the standard of assets and infrastructure in neighbouring local government areas.

As your Mayor, I am committed to listening to your opinion on the future of our City and I look forward to receiving your feedback. You can communicate with Council in a number of ways – please turn to page 11 for more information on how to provide your feedback to Council.

As the time draws nearer to respond formally to the NSW Government on this important issue, I am confident that Council will put forward a plan for the future of the City of Kogarah that will preserve the better lifestyle we currently enjoy and also ensure a positive outlook for our collective future.

**Cr Michael Platt**  
Mayor, The City of Kogarah

Our residents would be burdened by rate increases ranging from \$146 to \$386 per annum ... Kogarah residents would also be exposed to the cost burden of up to \$22.5 million in debt and an asset funding gap of up to \$18.8 million from day one of any amalgamation.



## Background

In March 2012 the Minister for Local Government announced the establishment of an Independent Local Government Review Panel which was tasked with exploring options for governance models, structural arrangements and boundary changes for councils in NSW.

Over a two year period, the Panel produced three separate reports and held three rounds of consultations with councils across NSW. Subsequently, the NSW State Government, in 2014, released its 'Fit for the Future' reform program. This program intends to provide the mechanism for the long term financial viability and strategic influence of the local government sector.

At this time, Council resolved that it does not support any of the options for its amalgamation.

Now in 2015, councils are facing the prospect of amalgamations as proposed in the 'Fit for the Future' program. A key component of this program is the criteria of 'scale and capacity'. This suggests minimum population sizes that most Sydney councils would be unable to satisfy. For Kogarah City Council it has been recommended that we amalgamate

with Canterbury, Rockdale and Hurstville City Councils creating a projected population of 497,500 by 2031.

The NSW Government has directed all councils to respond to the criteria outlined in the 'Fit for the Future' program. This response is required to be submitted by 30 June 2015.

To assist in formally assessing Council's status against the 'Fit for the Future' criteria, an independent consultant, endorsed by the NSW Government, has been engaged and some of their findings are presented in this brochure. This information provides context to various options for our City and outlines advantages and disadvantages for each of the options.

The information presented in this brochure in regards to Hurstville, Rockdale and Canterbury City Councils has been prepared on the basis of publicly available information. Information relating to Kogarah City Council includes the most up to date financial information.



**OPTION 1:**  
KOGARAH CITY COUNCIL  
STAND ALONE



**OPTION 2:**  
KOGARAH AND HURSTVILLE  
COUNCIL AMALGAMATION



**OPTION 3:** KOGARAH,  
HURSTVILLE AND ROCKDALE  
COUNCIL AMALGAMATION



**OPTION 4:** KOGARAH,  
HURSTVILLE, ROCKDALE  
AND CANTERBURY COUNCIL  
AMALGAMATION

## Your City, Your Say, Your Future

As part of the independent analysis, a variety of options have been explored in an attempt to satisfy the 'scale and capacity' criteria. The NSW Government's 'Fit for the Future' program has recommended the amalgamation of Kogarah, Canterbury, Rockdale and Hurstville City Councils. Council's analysis of this option clearly demonstrates that it would not provide the best outcome for our residents. Based on the information provided, Council's preferred option is to stand











alone and this is presented as Option 1. Council is seeking your feedback on what you think is the best option for the City of Kogarah's future.

Detailed information on each of the four options is provided on the following pages.

Feedback from the community will be considered by Council in May 2015 when a decision will be made on the direction of Council's submission in response to the NSW Government's 'Fit for the Future' program.



## Snapshot

	KOGARAH	HURSTVILLE	ROCKDALE	CANTERBURY
 POPULATION (CURRENT)*	60,411	84,859	106,712	148,853
 POPULATION (PROJECTED 2031)	76,350	104,950	134,350	181,850
 COUNCILLORS	12	12	15	10
 RESIDENTS PER COUNCILLOR	5,034	7,071	7,114	14,885
 OPERATING EXPENSES (\$M)**	\$47.6	\$66.2	\$82.8	\$97.6
 TOTAL DEBT (\$M)	NIL	\$7.5	\$7.3	\$7.7
 INFRASTRUCTURE BACKLOG (\$M)	\$1.9	\$2.9	\$10.7	\$17.4
 FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY RATING***	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
 FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY OUTLOOK****	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Negative
 INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT*****	Strong	Strong	Weak	Moderate

\* Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), Estimated Resident Population (ERP) data 2013.

\*\* Council's financial statements as at 30 June 2014.

\*\*\* TCorp Rating – TCorp (NSW Treasury Corporation) is the central borrowing authority for the State of NSW. The TCorp rating is a current financial sustainability measure which assesses if a council is currently able to generate sufficient funds to provide the levels of service and infrastructure agreed with its community.

\*\*\*\* TCorp Outlook – This measure assesses if a council will be able to generate sufficient funds to provide the level of service and infrastructure agreed by its community into the future, based on population growth.

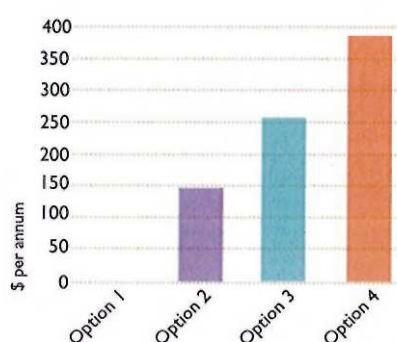
\*\*\*\*\* The Office of Local Government (OLG) in 2013 undertook an audit of councils in NSW and provided an assessment measure on how each council is managing their infrastructure and addressing the infrastructure backlog.

## Comparison of Rates

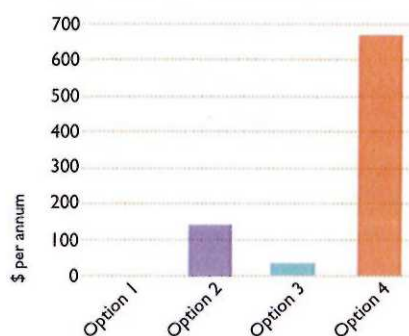
### AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL AND BUSINESS RATE COMPARISON

	OPTION 1 Kogarah City Council	OPTION 2 Kogarah & Hurstville Council amalgamation	OPTION 3 Kogarah, Hurstville & Rockdale Council amalgamation	OPTION 4 Kogarah, Hurstville, Rockdale & Canterbury Council amalgamation
AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL RATE	\$1,043	\$1,189	\$1,300	\$1,429
AVERAGE BUSINESS RATE	\$2,452	\$2,594	\$2,487	\$3,125

INCREASE IN AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL RATES FOR KOGARAH RESIDENTS



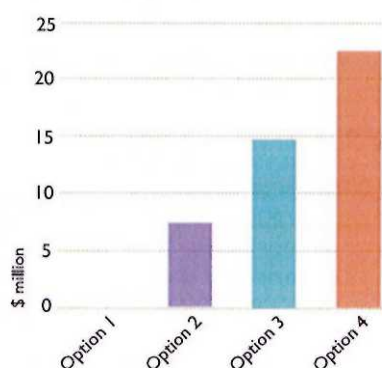
INCREASE IN AVERAGE BUSINESS RATES FOR KOGARAH RESIDENTS



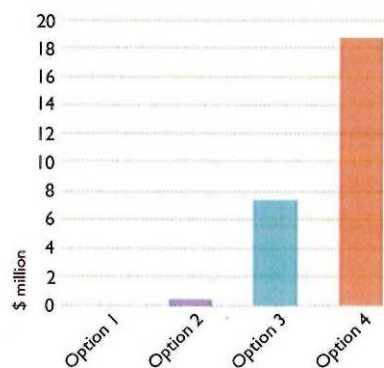
## Total Debt and Asset Funding Gap

	OPTION 1 Kogarah City Council	OPTION 2 Kogarah & Hurstville Council amalgamation	OPTION 3 Kogarah, Hurstville & Rockdale Council amalgamation	OPTION 4 Kogarah, Hurstville, Rockdale & Canterbury Council amalgamation
TOTAL DEBT	\$0	\$7.5 million	\$14.8 million	\$22.5 million
ASSET FUNDING GAP	\$0	\$0.48 million	\$7.36 million	\$18.8 million

TOTAL DEBT



ASSET FUNDING GAP





## Fit for the Future Benchmarks

As part of the 'Fit for the Future' program, councils are required to assess their status against criteria for scale and capacity, financial sustainability, efficient and effective management, and delivery of services and infrastructure. The NSW Government identifies seven

benchmarks that councils must address in their submission.

The benchmarks cover three categories:

- Sustainability
- Infrastructure and service management
- Efficiency.

Information can be found on the following pages about how each of the four options performs against the benchmarks set by the NSW Government.

A description of the benchmarks are provided below:



### Sustainability

These three benchmarks assess if a council has the ability to generate sufficient funds over the long term:

1. Operating performance
2. Own source revenue
3. Debt service cover



### Infrastructure and service management

These three benchmarks assess if a council is adequately maintaining and renewing its assets e.g. roads, footpaths, parks, facilities and buildings:

4. Asset maintenance
5. Asset renewal
6. Infrastructure backlog



### Efficiency

This benchmark assesses if a council has efficient service and infrastructure delivery, achieving value for money for both current and future ratepayers.

7. Real operating expenditure

## How would an amalgamation impact on rates and service levels?

Currently there are a number of significant differences in the rating systems of Kogarah City Council and our neighbouring councils. Under all amalgamation options the impact will be an increase in the average residential and business rates for residents of the City of Kogarah.

A merged council would be required to set a rating system. The exact impact on individual households is

unknown, but a key driver in determining rates would be land value and residents with comparatively high value properties would bear a higher proportion of the rates.

It is difficult to compare service levels as councils describe services differently and the information across the four councils is not presented consistently. Although research shows that typically in a merged council, the highest level of

services are adopted, which results in an increase in overall costs.

Given Kogarah City Council's high level of service provision for its infrastructure, it is likely that expenditure of available funds would be focused on other local government areas while they are brought up to the same service level. This would be detrimental to the existing Kogarah LGA.

## Communities of Interest

Communities of interest can be defined as the shared sense of identity held by the people in that area. It encompasses neighbourhood cohesion, shared experiences and shared places.

Local government needs to consider how adequately the elected representatives are able to represent the different communities of interest across a local government area (LGA). When looking at potential

council amalgamations this should be considered in light of the significant reduction in representation that would arise under any of the merger options.



OPTION  
1

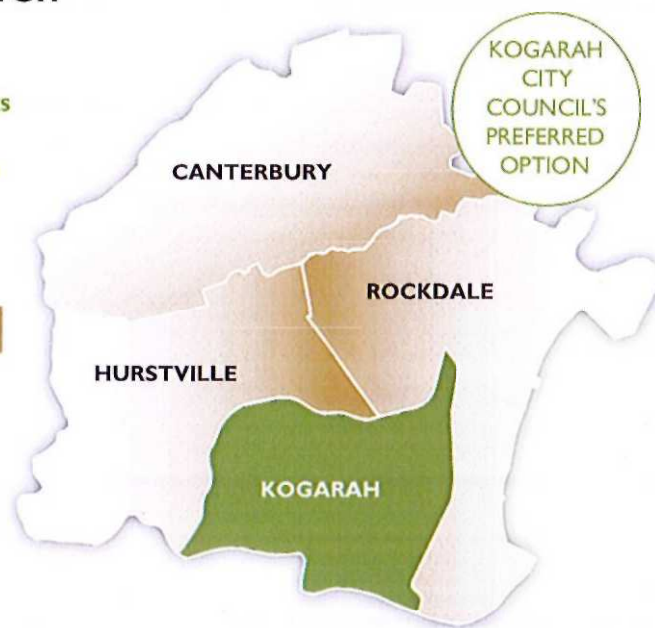
# Kogarah City Council

This option currently meets 6 of the 7 benchmarks set by the NSW State Government as shown below. By 2023, based on current trends, Kogarah City Council will meet all of the 7 benchmarks.

**NB:** This is the only option that will meet all benchmark criteria.

## Quick Stats

Population (current) – 60,411  
 Population (projected 2031) – 76,350  
 Geographic area – 16 km<sup>2</sup>  
 Full time equivalent staff – 242  
 Operating expenses - \$47.6 million  
 Councillor representation – 1:5,000  
 Total debt – Nil  
 Average residential rates – \$1,043  
 Average business rates – \$2,452  
 Asset funding gap (per annum) – Nil



## Advantages

- Long term financial sustainability
- Proven record of innovation and best practice
- Proven record of sound financial and asset management
- Debt free
- Meets 6 of the 7 benchmarks set by the NSW Government now and will meet all 7 by 2023
- Retains 'Kogarah's' identity
- High level of Councillor representation (1:5,000)
- Retains current levels of services

## Benchmarks



### Sustainability

	CURRENT	2023
Operating performance	✗	✓
Own source revenue	✓	✓
Debt service cover	✓	✓



### Infrastructure & service management

	CURRENT	2023
Asset maintenance	✓	✓
Asset renewal	✓	✓
Infrastructure backlog	✓	✓



### Efficiency

	CURRENT	2023
Real operating expenditure	✓	✓

## Disadvantages

- Is not consistent with the recommendations of the Local Government Review Panel in relation to population size

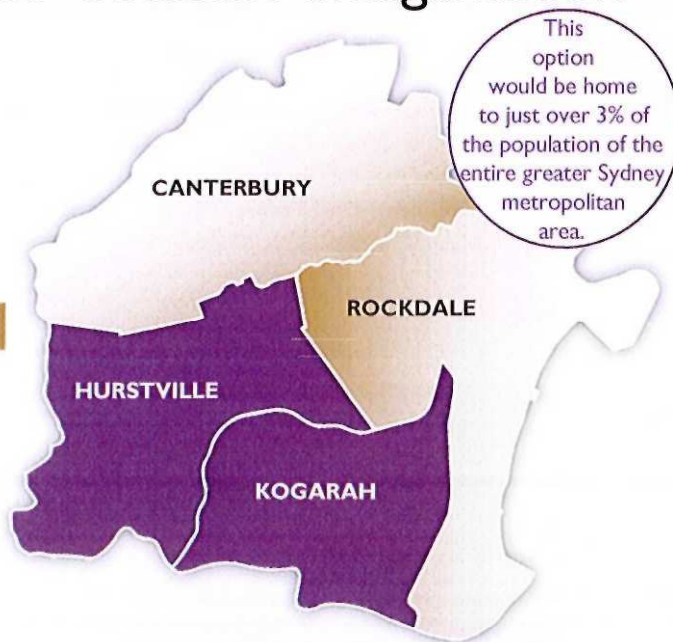
## OPTION 2

# Kogarah & Hurstville Council Amalgamation

This option currently meets 6 of the 7 benchmarks set by the NSW State Government as shown below. By 2023, based on current trends, this option will continue to meet 6 of the 7 benchmarks.

### Quick Stats

Population (current) – 144,082  
 Population (projected 2031) – 181,300  
 Geographic area – 38.3 km<sup>2</sup>  
 Full time equivalent staff – 559  
 Operating expenses – \$126 million  
 Councillor representation – 1:9,500\*  
 Total debt – \$7.5 million  
 Average residential rates – \$1,189  
 Average business rates – \$2,594  
 Asset funding gap (per annum) – \$0.48 million



### Advantages

- Both councils have a sound financial position and infrastructure rating

### Benchmarks



#### Sustainability

	CURRENT	2023
Operating performance	✗	✓
Own source revenue	✓	✓
Debt service cover	✓	✓



#### Infrastructure & service management

	CURRENT	2023
Asset maintenance	✓	✓
Asset renewal	✓	✗
Infrastructure backlog	✓	✓



#### Efficiency

	CURRENT	2023
Real operating expenditure	✓	✓

### Disadvantages

- Increased debt burden carried by Kogarah residents
- Estimated transition costs exceed government assistance funds by an estimated \$43.5 million
- Increase in the average residential and business rates for Kogarah ratepayers
- Currently does not meet the benchmarks set out by the NSW Government for a 'Fit for the Future' council, nor will it by 2023
- Decisions about service delivery may not reflect local priorities
- Less Councillor representation (1:9,500)
- Is not consistent with the recommendations of the Local Government Review Panel in relation to population size
- Loss of 'Kogarah' identity

\* Based on the current maximum number of councillors allowed under State Legislation.



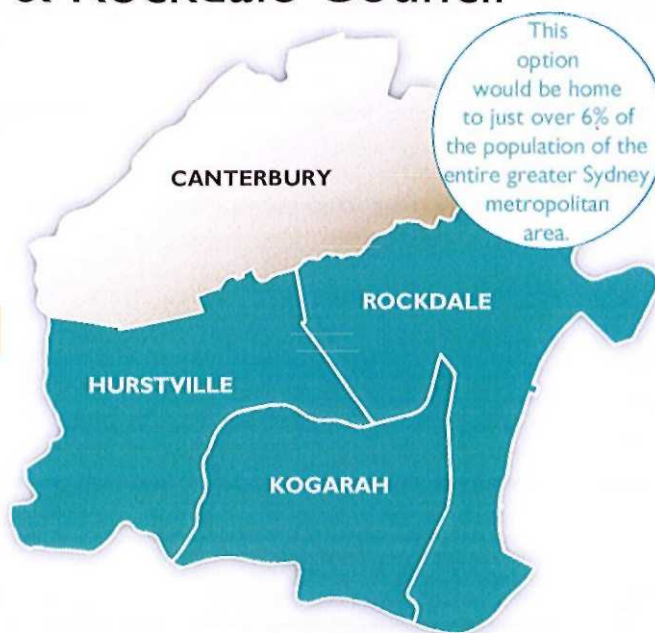
### OPTION 3

## Kogarah, Hurstville & Rockdale Council Amalgamation

This option currently meets 4 of the 7 benchmarks set by the NSW State Government as shown below. By 2023, based on current trends, this option will continue meet 3 of the 7 benchmarks.

### Quick Stats

Population (current) – 257,974  
 Population (projected 2031) – 315,650  
 Geographic area – 66.5 km<sup>2</sup>  
 Full time equivalent staff – 900  
 Operating expenses – \$206 million  
 Councillor representation – 1:19,120\*  
 Total debt – \$14.8 million  
 Average residential rates – \$1,300  
 Average business rates – \$2,487  
 Asset funding gap (per annum) – \$7.36 million



### Advantages

- Potential for a greater level of regional advocacy with State and Federal Governments

### Benchmarks



#### Sustainability

	CURRENT	2023
Operating performance	✗	✗
Own source revenue	✓	✓
Debt service cover	✓	✓



#### Infrastructure & service management

	CURRENT	2023
Asset maintenance	✗	✗
Asset renewal	✗	✗
Infrastructure backlog	✓	✗



#### Efficiency

	CURRENT	2023
Real operating expenditure	✓	✓

### Disadvantages

- Increased debt burden carried by Kogarah residents
- Estimated transition costs exceed government assistance funds by an estimated \$65.5 million
- Increase in the average residential and business rates for Kogarah ratepayers
- Currently does not meet the benchmarks set out by the NSW Government for a 'Fit for the Future' Council, nor will it by 2023
- Decisions about service delivery may not reflect local priorities
- Less Councillor representation (1:19,120)
- Is not consistent with the recommendations of the Local Government Review Panel in relation to population size
- A significant funding gap that would need to be addressed in order to meet asset maintenance, asset renewal and infrastructure backlog ratios
- Loss of 'Kogarah' identity

\* Based on the current maximum number of councillors allowed under State Legislation.



**OPTION  
4**

## Kogarah, Hurstville, Rockdale & Canterbury Amalgamation

This option currently meets 3 of the 7 benchmarks set by the NSW State Government as shown below. By 2023, based on current trends, this option will meet 4 of the 7 benchmarks.

### Quick Stats

Population (current) – 397,523  
 Population (projected 2031) – 497,500  
 Geographic area – 100 km<sup>2</sup>  
 Full time equivalent staff – 1,425  
 Operating expenses – \$307 million  
 Councillor representation – 1:26,020\*  
 Total debt – \$22.5 million  
 Average residential rates – \$1,429  
 Average business rates – \$3,125  
 Asset funding gap (per annum) – \$18.8 million

### Benchmarks

#### \$ Sustainability

	CURRENT	2023
Operating performance	✗	✓
Own source revenue	✓	✓
Debt service cover	✓	✓

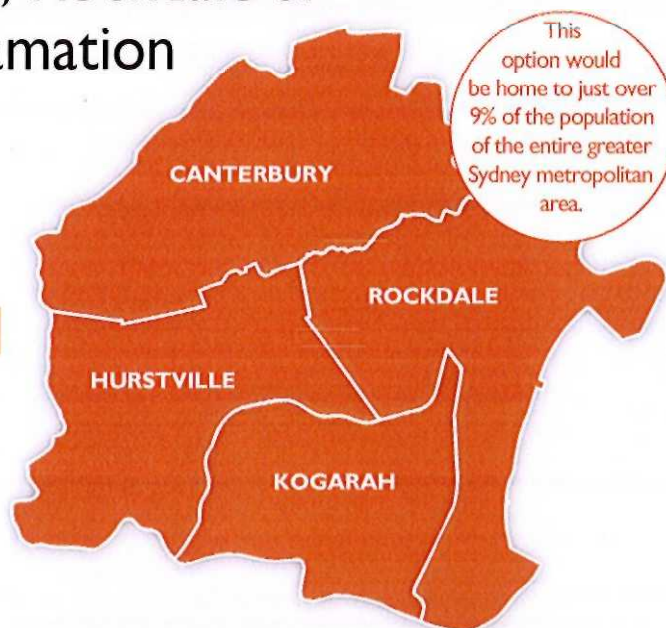
#### Infrastructure & service management

	CURRENT	2023
Asset maintenance	✗	✗
Asset renewal	✗	✗
Infrastructure backlog	✗	✗

#### Efficiency

	CURRENT	2023
Real operating expenditure	✓	✓

\* Based on the current maximum number of councillors allowed under State Legislation.



### Advantages

- Consistent with the recommendations of the Local Government Review Panel in relation to population size
- Access to TCorp borrowing facility at reduced cost
- Access to a streamlined Special Rate Variation and planning process
- Potential for a greater level of regional advocacy with State and Federal Governments

### Disadvantages

- Increased debt burden carried by Kogarah residents
- Estimated transition costs exceed government assistance funds by an estimated \$73.5 million
- Increase in the average residential and business rates for Kogarah ratepayers
- Currently does not meet the benchmarks set out by the NSW Government for a 'Fit for the Future' Council, nor will it by 2023
- Decisions about service delivery may not reflect local priorities
- The lowest level of Councillor representation out of all of the merged options presented (1:26,020)
- A substantial funding gap that would need to be addressed in order to meet asset maintenance, asset renewal and infrastructure backlog ratios
- Loss of 'Kogarah' identity



## Have your say

Thank you for taking the time to read through the information provided. Kogarah's community is facing one of its biggest challenges and we need your feedback on what you think is the best option for Kogarah's future. In order to ensure the community has an opportunity to have their say, we are undertaking a community consultation process. To have your say on the future of Kogarah you can:



**Telephone Survey** – to be sure we are capturing the views of our community, Council has engaged an independent consultant to undertake a telephone survey.

We encourage you to participate if you are one of the randomly selected residents. The telephone survey is likely to take approximately ten minutes.



Complete the survey attached to this information pack and return it to:  
Locked Bag 8, Kogarah 2217

Complete this survey online at  
[www.kogarah.nsw.gov.au/fitforthefuture](http://www.kogarah.nsw.gov.au/fitforthefuture)



If you would like to provide any additional feedback to Council, or have any further questions, you can contact us via any of the following methods:

**EMAIL:**  
[fitforthefuture@kogarah.nsw.gov.au](mailto:fitforthefuture@kogarah.nsw.gov.au)

**MAIL:**  
The General Manager  
Kogarah City Council  
Locked Bag 8, Kogarah, 2217

**PHONE:**  
9330 9558

All information contained in this brochure is available on Council's website:  
[www.kogarah.nsw.gov.au/fitforthefuture](http://www.kogarah.nsw.gov.au/fitforthefuture)

## The NSW Government's Timeline for Change

**OCTOBER 2013**  
Independent Review  
Panel released  
its final report –  
Revitalising Local  
Government

**OCTOBER 2014 -  
FEBRUARY 2015**  
'Fit for the Future'  
program reviewed and  
assessed by Council

**JUNE 2015**  
Council required to  
respond to 'Fit for  
the Future' and lodge  
a submission to the  
NSW Government

**SEPTEMBER 2014**  
'Fit for the Future'  
program launched

**MARCH - MAY 2015**  
Kogarah City  
Council community  
consultation

**OCTOBER 2015**  
Notification from  
NSW Government  
regarding local  
councils' submissions



## Your Councillors

East Ward	 Michael Platt (Mayor) m: 0419 406 168 f: 9547 1539 e: mpkmc@kogarah.nsw.gov.au	 Annie Tang (Deputy Mayor) m: 0409 240 760 f: 9585 1416 e: annie.tang@kogarah.nsw.gov.au	 Sam Stratikopoulos m: 0418 293 672 e: sam.stratikopoulos@kogarah.nsw.gov.au
North Ward	 Stephen Agius m: 0419 556 023 f: 9587 4595 e: stephenagius@bigpond.com	 Nick Katris m: 0419 402 191 f: 9747 5046 e: katris@optusnet.com.au	 Lachlan McLean m: 0419 555 863 f: 9587 4618 e: lachlanmclean2008@yahoo.com.au
Middle Ward	 Nickolas Varvaris (Emeritus Mayor) m: 0409 041 479 f: 8567 5767 e: nickolas.varvaris@citywidgroup.com.au	 Kathryn Landsberry m: 0419 984 934 f: 9594 0969 e: klkmc@optusnet.com.au	 Nathaniel Smith m: 0418 224 291 f: 9529 2739 e: nathaniel.smith@kogarah.nsw.gov.au
West Ward	 Nicholas Aroney m: 0419 418 199 e: nick.aroney@kogarah.nsw.gov.au	 George Katsabaris m: 0418 129 871 e: george.katsabaris@kogarah.nsw.gov.au	 Jacinta Petroni m: 0414 609 957 e: jpetroni@kogarah.nsw.gov.au

## Survey

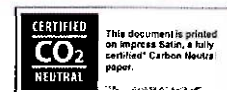
Please rate the following options – with one (1) being your preferred option and four (4) being your least preferred option.

- ☐ Option 1: Kogarah City Council
- ☐ Option 2: Kogarah and Hurstville Council amalgamation
- ☐ Option 3: Kogarah, Hurstville and Rockdale Council amalgamation
- ☐ Option 4: Kogarah, Hurstville, Rockdale and Canterbury amalgamation

Please provide any additional comments below:


Please mail responses to:  
Kogarah City Council  
Locked Bag 8, Kogarah NSW 2217

**KOGARAH CITY COUNCIL** *Fit for the Future*



www.kogarah.nsw.gov.au



# Kogarah City Council

Fit for the Future

Prepared by: Micromex Research

Date: May 2015





# Background



# Methodology & Sample

## **Data collection**

Micromex Research, together with Kogarah City Council, developed the questionnaire.

## **Data collection period**

Telephone interviewing (CATI) was conducted during the period 29<sup>th</sup> April – 5<sup>th</sup> May 2015 from 4pm – 8:30pm Monday to Friday and from 10am – 4pm on Saturday.

## **Sample**

N=607 interviews were conducted.

A sample size of 607 provides a maximum sampling error of plus or minus 4.0% at 95% confidence.

This means that if the survey was replicated with a new universe of n=607 residents, that 19 times out of 20 we would expect to see the same results, i.e. +/- 4.0%.

## **Interviewing**

Interviewing was conducted in accordance with the AMSRS Code of Professional Conduct. Where applicable, the issues in each question were systematically rearranged for each respondent.

## **Data analysis**

The data within this report was analysed using Q Professional.

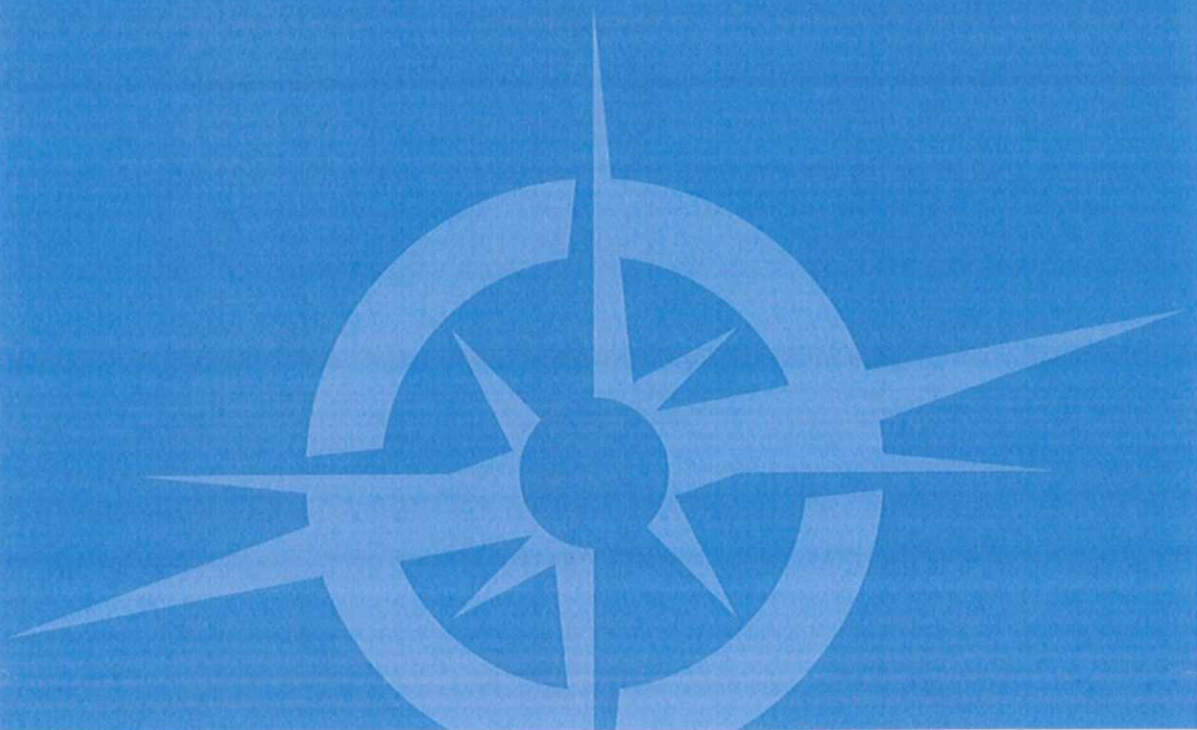
## **Percentages**


All percentages are calculated to the nearest whole number and therefore the total may not exactly equal 100%.



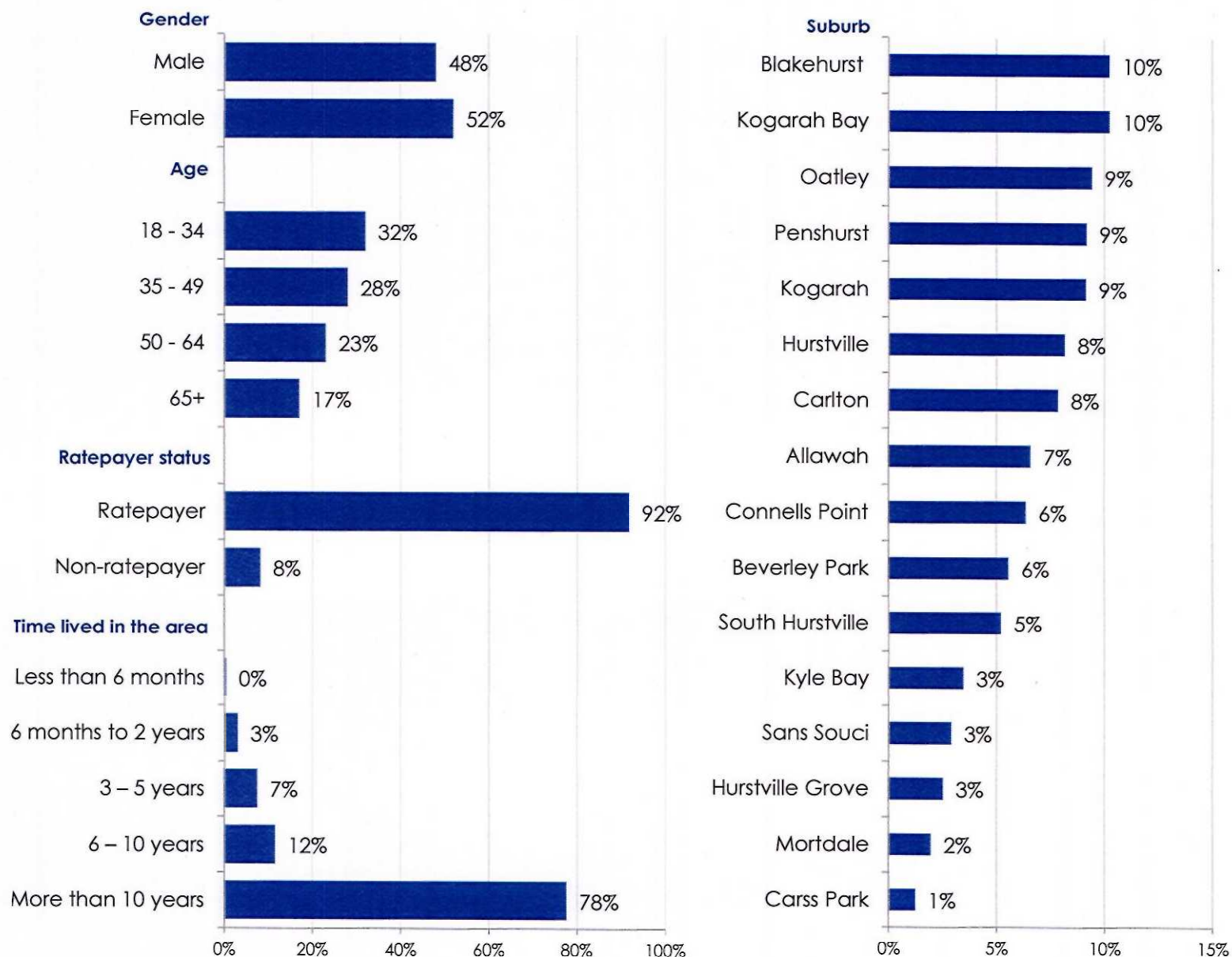


# Sample Profile




  
 The sample was weighted by age and gender to reflect the 2011 ABS community profile of Kogarah City Council

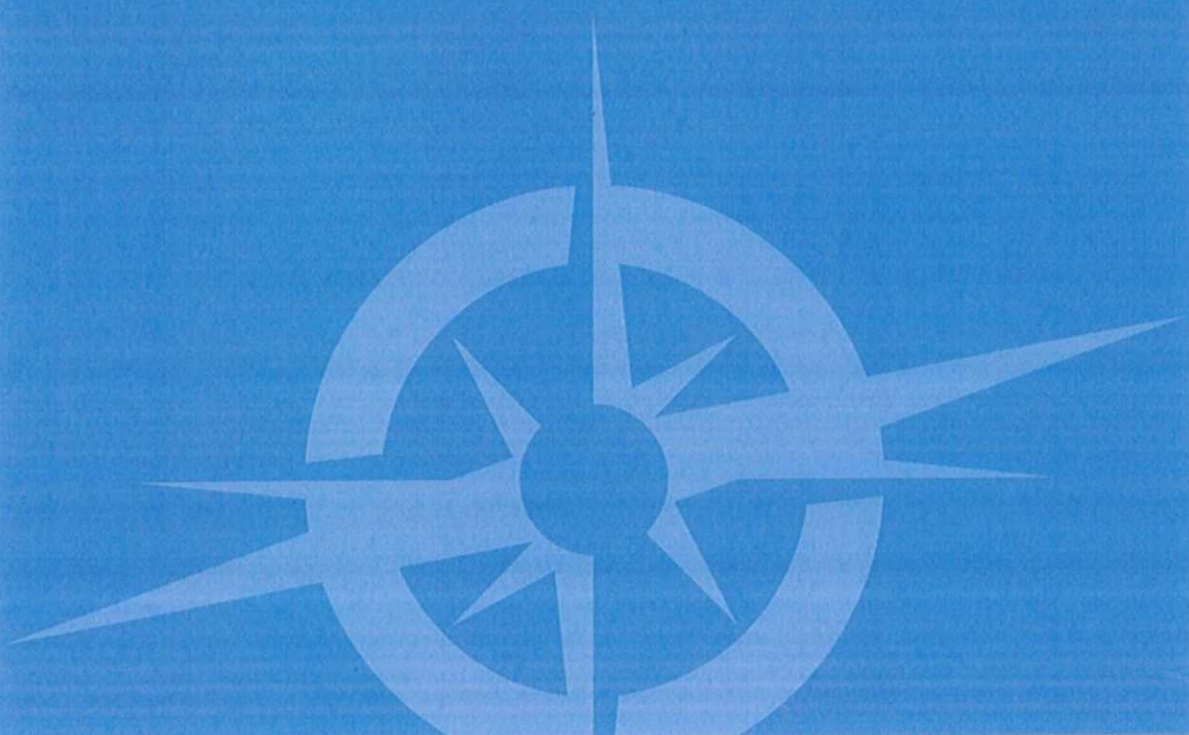
# Sample Profile



Base: N=607

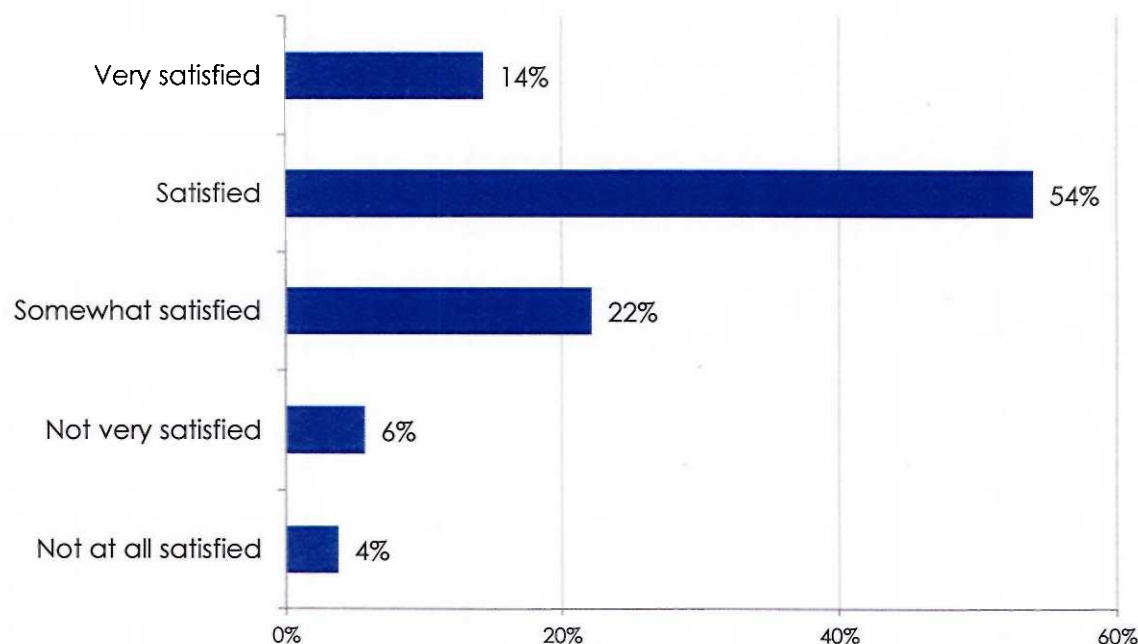


# Detailed Findings



# Overall Satisfaction with the Performance of Council

Q3. In general, how satisfied are you with the performance of Council, and their services, not just on one or two issues but across all responsibility areas?



There were no significant differences by suburb

	Overall	Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
Base	607	291	316	194	170	140	103	558	49
Mean rating	3.69	3.73	3.66	3.65	3.56	3.80	3.85	3.69	3.78

Scale: 1 = not at all satisfied , 5 = very satisfied

**68% of residents were 'satisfied' to 'very satisfied' with the overall performance of Kogarah Council. Those who recalled receiving the Fit for the Future brochure from Council gave a marginally higher mean rating (3.75) than did those who didn't receive the brochure (3.67), although the difference is not statistically significant.**



# Concept Statement

'Fit for the Future' is the name given to the review of Local Government being carried out by the NSW State Government.

Under this review the NSW State Government is also encouraging local councils to amalgamate or merge, forming new, larger councils.

Kogarah City Council's position is that it is in the best interests of the residents that Kogarah stands alone and remains as Kogarah City Council.

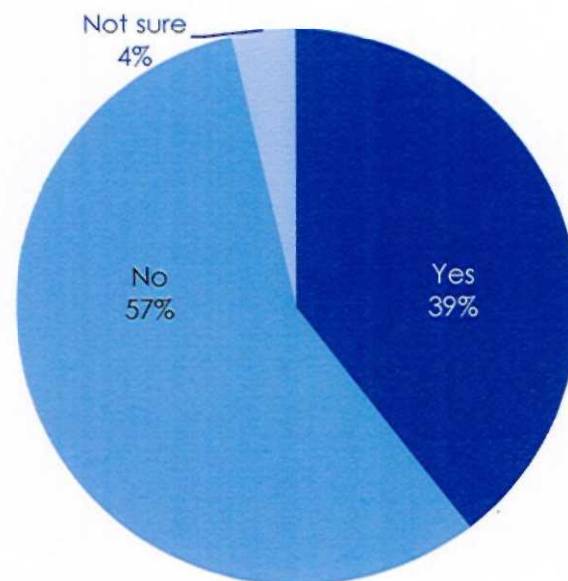
Under any amalgamation with one or more of the neighbouring councils, residents would be burdened by rate increases ranging from \$146 to \$386 per annum. In addition, Kogarah residents would also be exposed to the cost burden of up to \$22.5 million in debt and an asset funding gap of up to \$18.8 million from day one of any amalgamation.

Kogarah City Council is committed to listening to your opinion of the future of our City. Council is considering four options and they would like to obtain your views of each of the four options to assist in preparing their submission to the Government.



# Awareness of Potential Amalgamation

Q6a. Prior to this call, were you aware that the NSW Government had recommended that Kogarah City Council merge with Hurstville, Rockdale, and Canterbury Councils?



There were no significant differences by suburb

	Overall	Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
<b>Base</b>	607	291	316	194	170	140	103	558	49
<b>Yes</b>	39%	44%	35%	31%	35%	48%	51%	40%	29%
<b>No</b>	57%	52%	62%	64%	62%	49%	46%	56%	66%
<b>Can't say</b>	4%	4%	3%	5%	3%	3%	3%	4%	5%

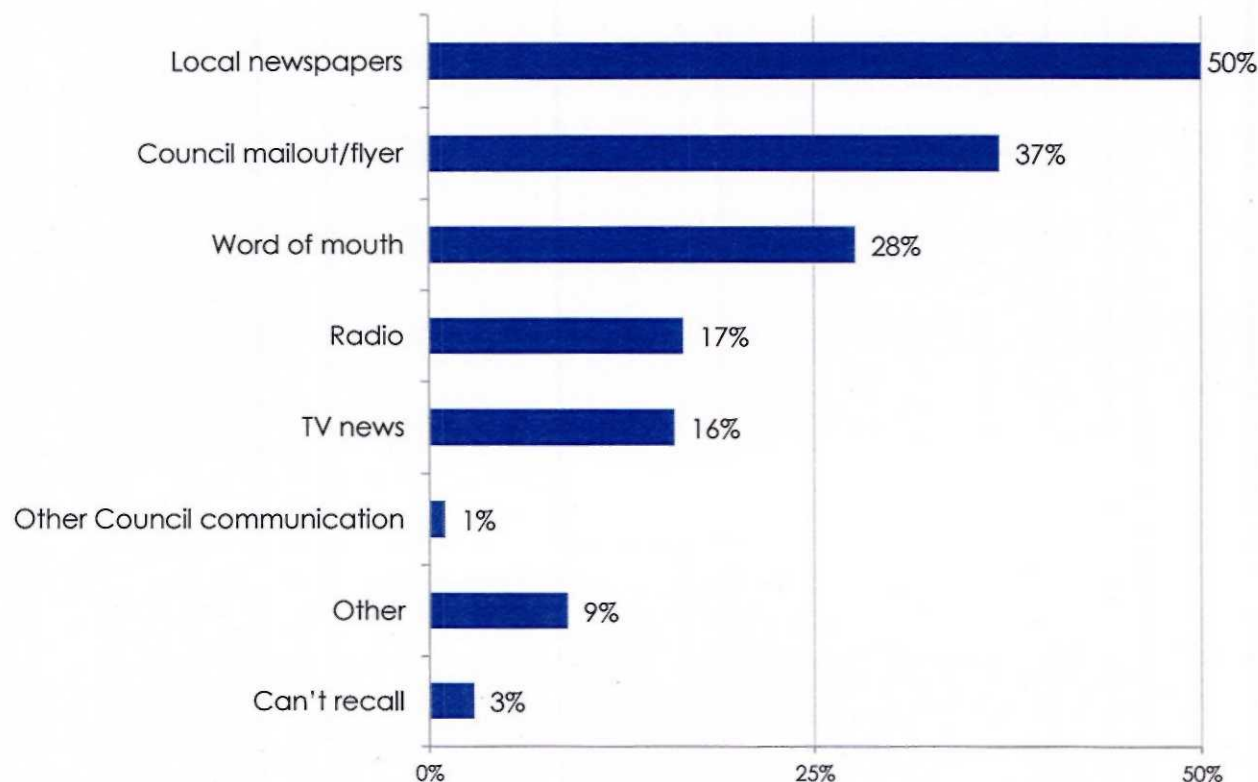


**39% of residents had prior awareness that the NSW Government had recommended that Kogarah City Council merge with Hurstville, Rockdale, and Canterbury Councils**



# Means of Becoming Aware of Amalgamation Proposal

Q6b. Where did you hear about the proposal to potentially merge Kogarah Council with the other councils?



Residents in Hurstville Grove/Mortdale/Oatley/Penshurst were significantly more likely to have become aware via 'Council mail-out/flyer'

Residents in Kogarah/Beverley Park/Kogarah Bay/Sans Souci were significantly less likely to have become aware via 'TV news'

Base: N=239

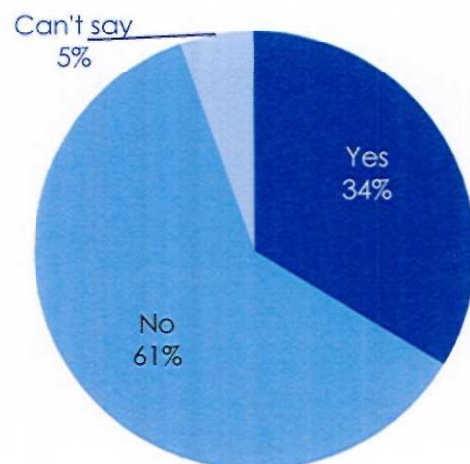
Other	Count
Sydney Morning Herald	7
Online	6
Hurstville Council information	4
Other government information	3
Daily Telegraph	3
Political party meeting	1
Other Council communication	Count
Council meetings	2
Staff/Councillors	2
Word of mouth	Count
Friend	25
Neighbour	14
Family	10
Community group	6
Other Kogarah residents	5
Colleague	4
Unsure	2

Of those who had previous awareness of the proposal, 50% heard via 'local newspapers', followed by 'Council mail-out/flyer' (37%)

# Receipt and Usage of Council Information Booklet

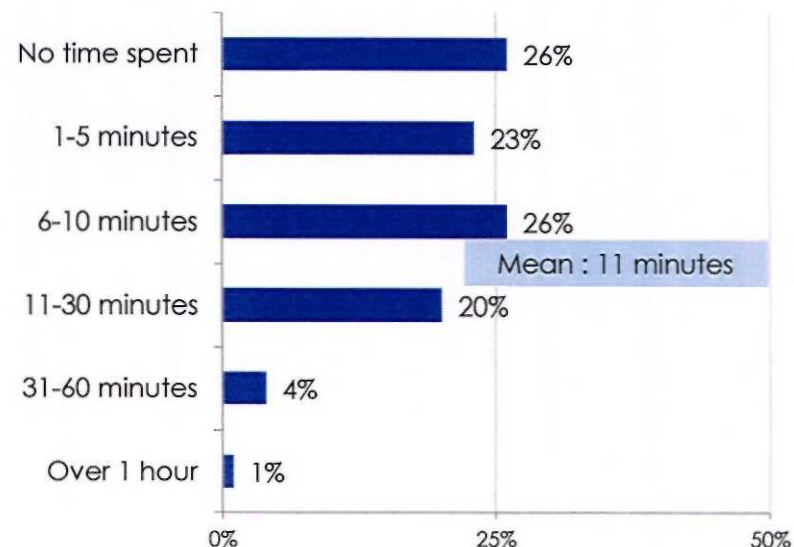
Last week, Council distributed a 12-page A4-sized booklet to all households in the Kogarah LGA. The booklet was titled "The Future of the City of Kogarah" and it explained the State Government's plans for council mergers and outlined Council's position.

Q7a. Do you remember receiving that brochure at home in the past week or two?



Residents in Blakehurst/Carss Park/Connells Point/Kyle Bay were significantly more likely to remember receiving the brochure than those living in Kogarah/Beverley Park/Kogarah Bay/Sans Souci

Q7b. How long, if at all, would you have personally spent reading or looking through that brochure?



Base: N=204

	Overall	Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
Base	607	291	316	194	170	140	103	558	49
Yes	34%	34%	33%	22%	34%	40%	46%▲	36%▲	8%
No	61%	61%	61%	73%	59%	54%	51%	59%	87%▲
Can't say	5%	5%	6%	5%	8%	5%	3%	5%	5%

▲ ▼ = significantly higher/lower (by group)



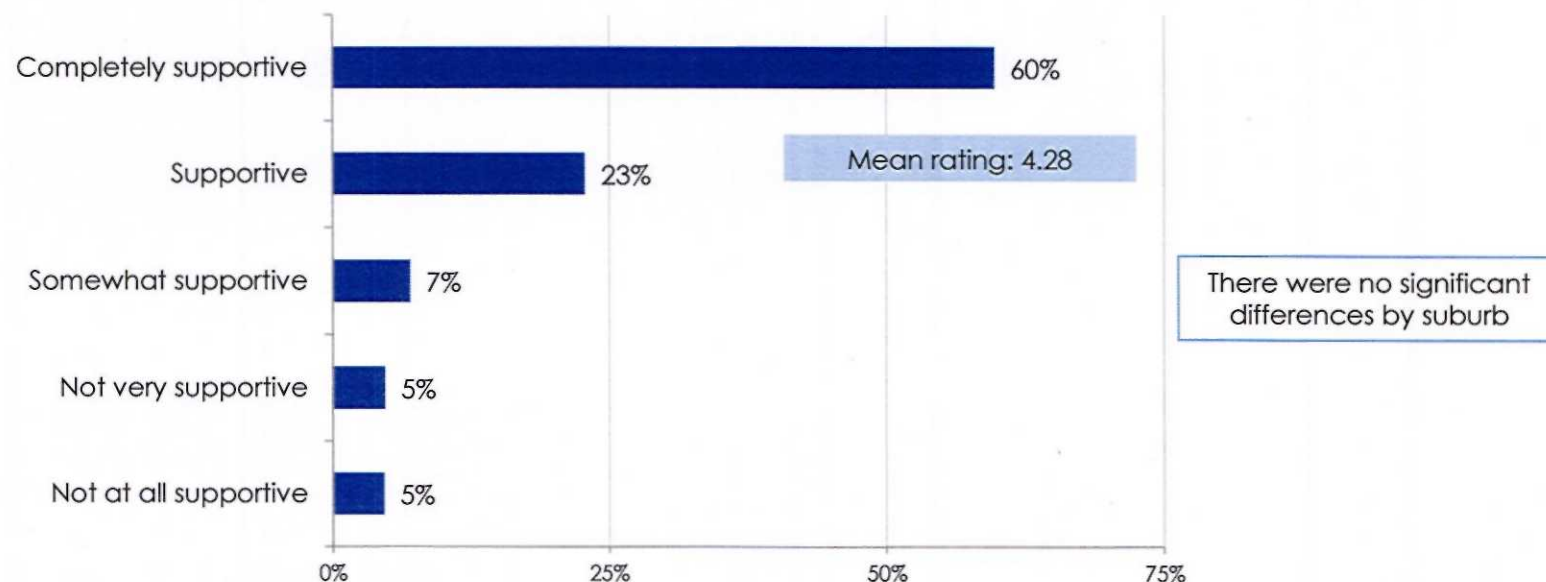
**34% of residents remember receiving 'The Future of the City of Kogarah', with residents averaging approximately 11 minutes spent reading or looking through the brochure**



# Support for Council Standing Alone

Kogarah Council could stand alone and not merge with any other council. This option will meet all seven sustainability, infrastructure and efficiency benchmarks set by the NSW State Government by 2023 – as an example, Kogarah Council is debt-free. Furthermore, this option would not see Kogarah residents burdened by existing debts of other councils, and would deliver long-term financial sustainability based on Council's proven record of sound financial and asset management, while retaining Kogarah's identity.

Q4a. How supportive are you of Kogarah City Council standing alone and not merging with any other councils?



	Overall	Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
Base	607	291	316	194	170	140	103	558	49
Mean rating	4.28	4.18	4.38	4.36	4.18	4.32	4.26	4.29	4.17

Scale: 1 = not at all supportive, 5 = completely supportive

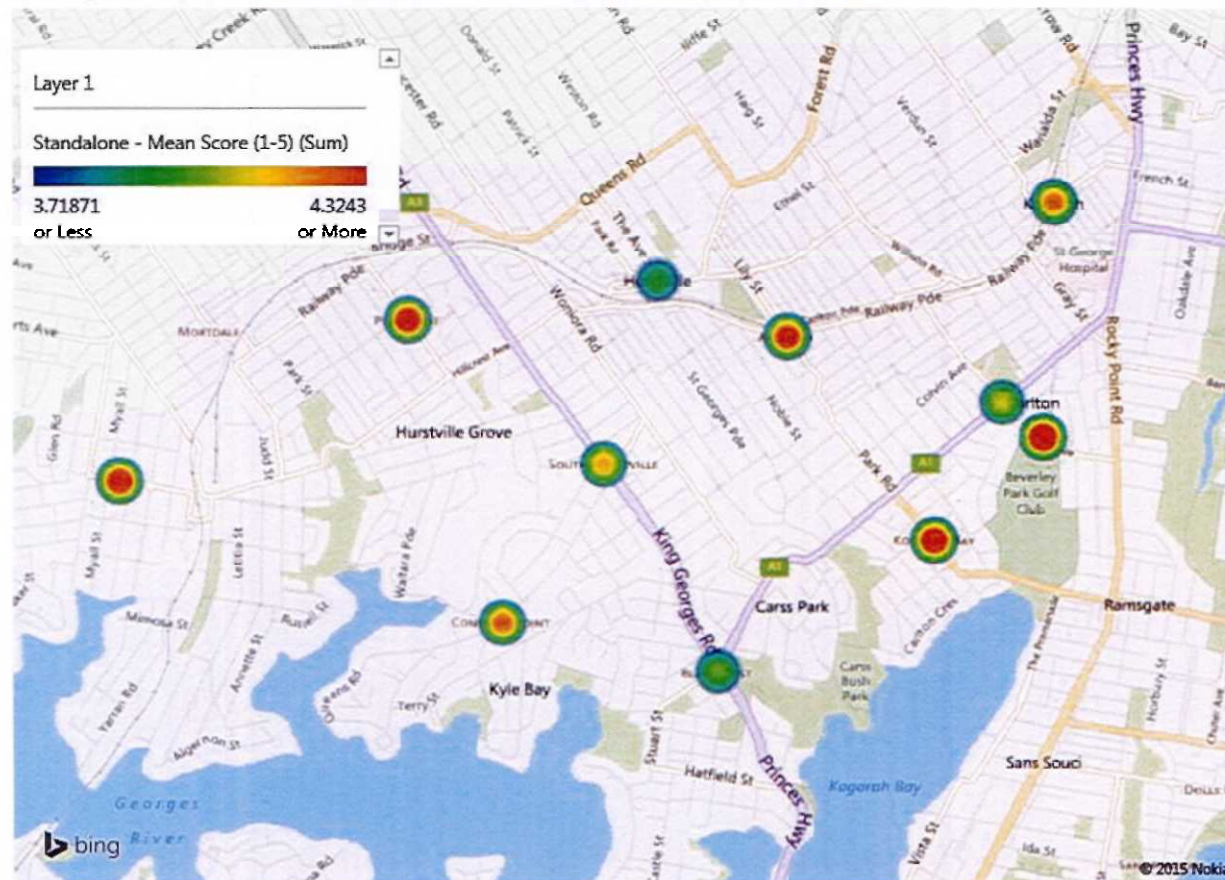


**60% of residents committed to the top 'completely supportive' code when asked about Kogarah City Council standing alone – with a further 30% stating they were 'somewhat supportive' to 'supportive'. There were no significant differences by key sub-samples.**

# Support for Council Standing Alone

Kogarah Council could stand alone and not merge with any other council. This option will meet all seven sustainability, infrastructure and efficiency benchmarks set by the NSW State Government by 2023 – as an example, Kogarah Council is debt-free. Furthermore, this option would not see Kogarah residents burdened by existing debts of other councils, and would deliver long-term financial sustainability based on Council's proven record of sound financial and asset management, while retaining Kogarah's identity.

Q4a. How supportive are you of Kogarah City Council standing alone and not merging with any other councils?



The above heat map plots the mean 'Supportive' score for the 11 suburbs within the LGA with the largest survey sample (suburbs excluded from the heat map because of small sample sizes are: Sans Souci, Carrs Park, Kyle Bay, Hurstville Grove, Mortdale). Those points with the more intense brown colour were more supportive of Council standing alone.

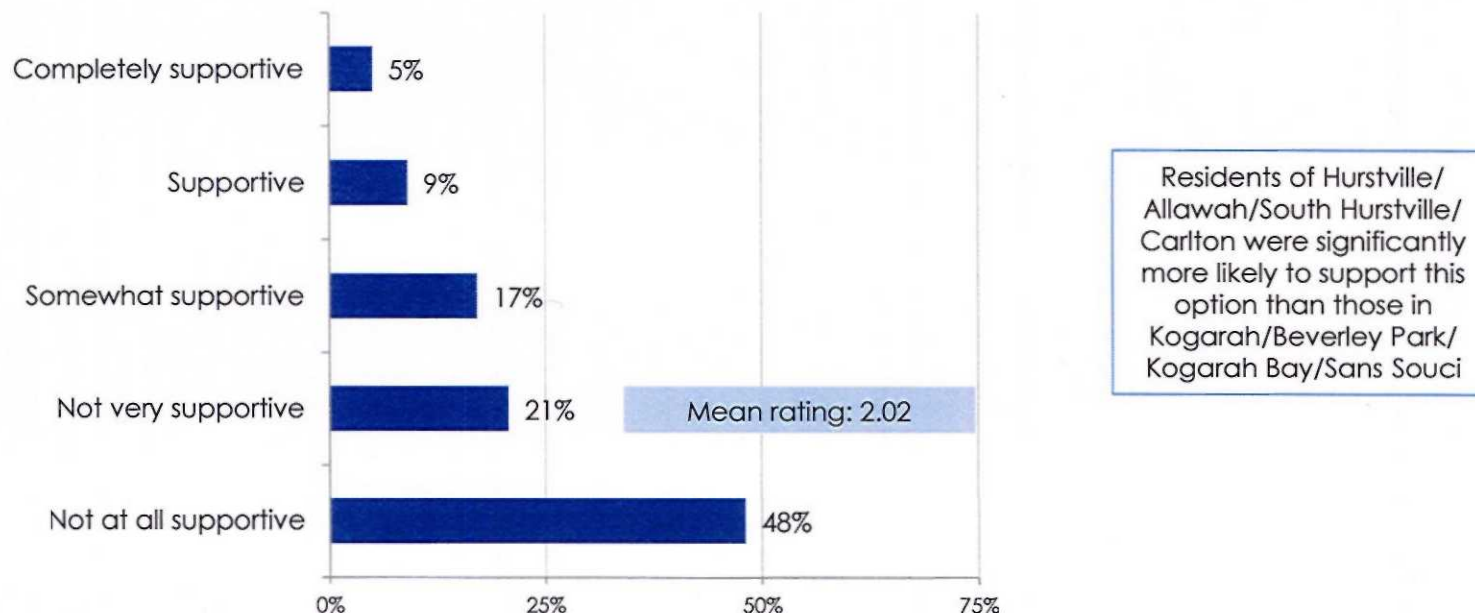


# Support for Merger with Hurstville Council

Kogarah Council could merge with Hurstville Council. By 2023, this option will meet six of the seven sustainability, infrastructure and efficiency benchmarks set by the NSW State Government. However, while Kogarah Council is currently debt-free, Hurstville Council is carrying debt of \$7.5 million, and a merger would likely result in an increase in residential and business rates for Kogarah ratepayers.

There is also likely to be less Councillor representation for residents and businesses.

Q4b. How supportive are you of Kogarah City Council merging with Hurstville Council?



	Overall	Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
Base	607	291	316	194	170	140	103	558	49
Mean rating	2.02	2.23▲	1.83	2.13	2.11	1.85	1.90	2.01	2.21

▲ ▼ = significantly higher/lower (by group)

Scale: 1 = not at all supportive, 5 = completely supportive

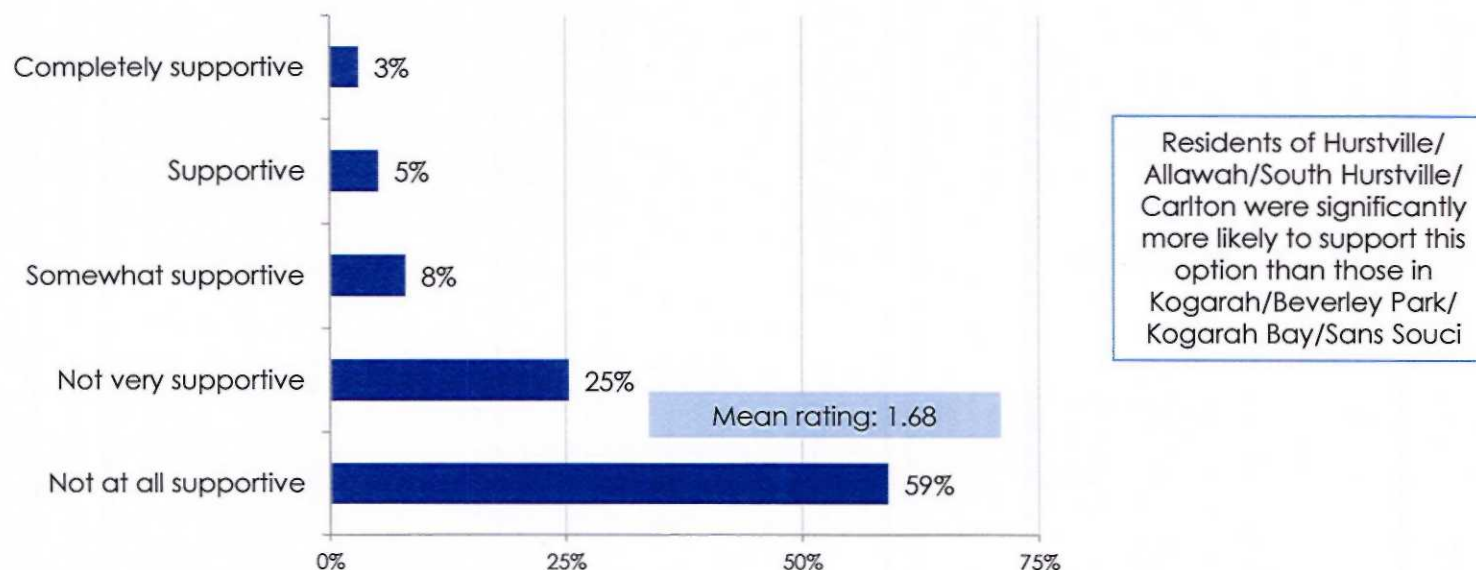
**14% of residents were 'supportive' to 'completely supportive' of Kogarah City Council merging with Hurstville Council – whilst 69% were 'not very/Not at all supportive'.**

**Whilst still a low level of support, males were significantly more likely to be supportive**

# Support for Merger with Hurstville and Rockdale Councils

Kogarah Council could merge with Hurstville and Rockdale Councils. By 2023, this option will only meet three of the seven sustainability, infrastructure and efficiency benchmarks set by the NSW State Government due to Infrastructure and Asset backlogs within the Rockdale LGA. Furthermore, while Kogarah Council is currently debt-free, both Hurstville and Rockdale Councils are carrying debt that totals \$14.8 million, and a merger would likely result in an increase in residential and business rates for Kogarah ratepayers. There is also likely to be less Councillor representation for residents and businesses.

Q4c. How supportive are you of Kogarah City Council merging with Hurstville and Rockdale Councils?



	Overall	Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
Base	607	291	316	194	170	140	103	558	49
Mean rating	1.68	1.86▲	1.51	1.70	1.79	1.57	1.61	1.66	1.92

▲ ▼ = significantly higher/lower (by group)

Scale: 1 = not at all supportive, 5 = completely supportive



**84% of residents were 'not very supportive' to 'not at all supportive' of Kogarah City Council merging with Hurstville and Rockdale Councils.**

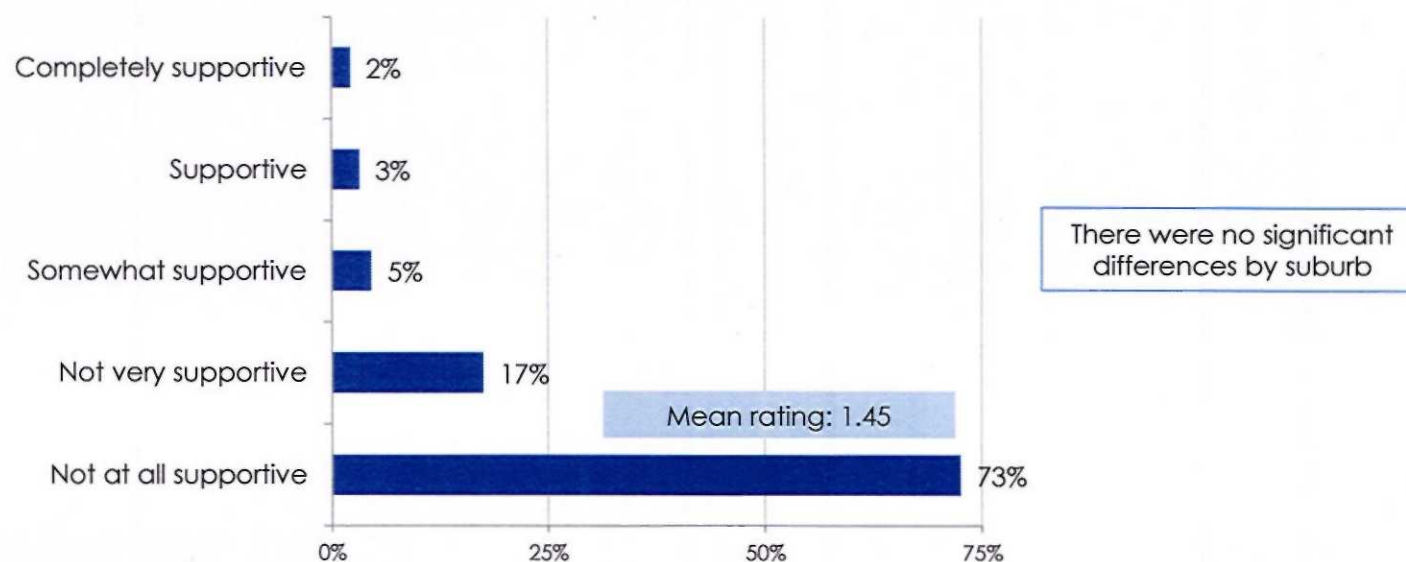
**Whilst still a low level of support, males were significantly more likely to be supportive**



# Support for State Government's Proposed Merger

Kogarah Council could merge with Hurstville, Rockdale and Canterbury Councils. This is the recommendation of the NSW Government's Fit for the Future program. By 2023, this option will only meet four of the seven sustainability, infrastructure and efficiency benchmarks set by the NSW State Government due to Infrastructure and Asset backlogs within the Rockdale and Canterbury LGAs. Furthermore, while Kogarah Council is currently debt-free, Hurstville, Rockdale and Canterbury Councils are carrying debt that totals \$22.5 million, and a merger would likely result in an increase in residential and business rates for Kogarah ratepayers. There is also likely to be less Councillor representation for residents and businesses.

Q4d. How supportive are you of Kogarah City Council merging with Hurstville, Rockdale, and Canterbury Councils?



	Overall	Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
Base	607	291	316	194	170	140	103	558	49
Mean rating	1.45	1.56	1.35	1.47	1.46	1.41	1.44	1.41	1.85

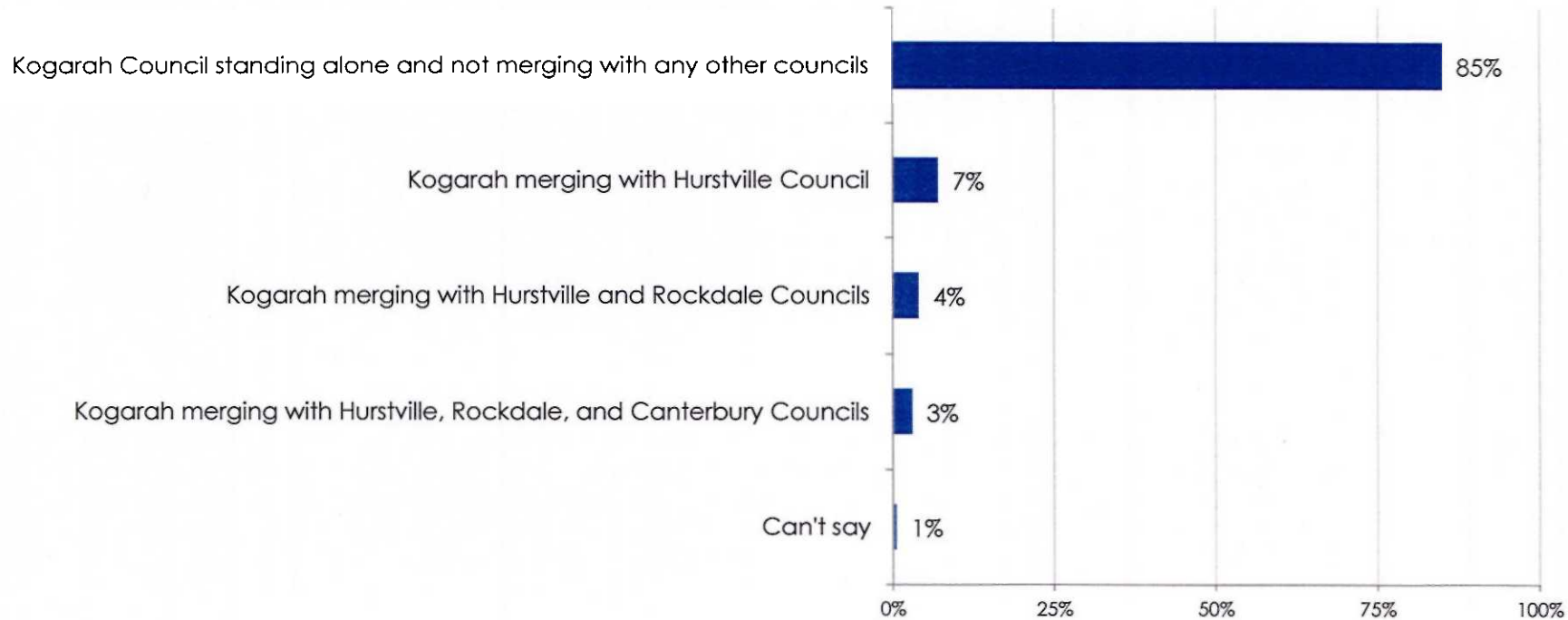
Scale: 1 = not at all supportive, 5 = completely supportive



**90% of residents were 'not very supportive' to 'not at all supportive' of Kogarah City Council merging with Hurstville, Rockdale, and Canterbury Councils – note that a sizeable 73% committed to the bottom 'Not at all supportive' code.**

# Preference of Proposed Options

Q5a. Thinking about the four options we have just discussed, which is your preferred option?



	Overall	Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
<b>Base</b>	607	291	316	194	170	140	103	558	49
Standing alone	85%	78%	91%▲	92%	79%	80%	84%	86%	73%
Hurstville	7%	10%	5%	5%	8%	9%	9%	7%	11%
Hurstville and Rockdale Councils	4%	6%	3%	0%	9%	5%	4%	4%	5%
Hurstville, Rockdale, and Canterbury	3%	5%	2%	3%	3%	4%	4%	3%	10%

▲ ▼ = significantly higher/lower (by group)

**85% of residents indicated that Kogarah Council standing alone and not merging with any other councils was their preferred option. Females were significantly more likely to prefer this option.**



# Preference of Proposed Options

Q5a. Thinking about the four options we have just discussed, which is your preferred option?

	Overall	Kogarah, Beverley Park, Kogarah Bay, and Sans Souci	Hurstville, Allawah, South Hurstville, and Carlton	Blakehurst, Carss Park, Connells Point, and Kyle Bay	Hurstville Grove, Mortdale, Oatley, and Penshurst
<b>Base</b>	607	169	169	129	140
Standing alone	85%	90%	75%▲	83%	91%
Hurstville	7%	6%	9%	10%	5%
Hurstville and Rockdale Councils	4%	3%	10%▼	2%	2%
Hurstville, Rockdale, and Canterbury	3%	1%	7%	3%	2%

▲ ▼ = significantly higher/lower (by group)



**Across the LGA, the stand-alone option was clearly the preferred outcome. However, residents in Hurstville/Allawah/South Hurstville/Carlton were significantly less likely to prefer 'Standing Alone' and significantly more likely to prefer merging with 'Hurstville and Rockdale Councils'**



The primary reason for choosing to stand alone was Council's current financial sustainability, as well as wanting to avoid taking on the debts of other councils. There is also a sense that Council is doing well in its current form.

## Reasons for Preference – Stand Alone

Q5a. Thinking about the four options we have just discussed, which is your preferred option?

Q5b. Why do you say that?

Standing Alone (N=514) – Percentages are to the total sample base of 607	%
Council is financially sustainable/Want to avoid debt from other councils	45%
Happy with Kogarah Council/Managed well/Does a good job as is	27%
Against rate increase	15%
Do not like other council areas/Unhappy with other councils' management	6%
Area would be too large to be effectively managed	6%
Would have less representation if merged	6%
Do not want quality of services and facilities to decline	6%
There will be a lack of focus on local issues if merged	5%
Do not think merger will improve efficiency/benefit Kogarah	2%
Do not like Hurstville Council	2%
Council areas are not compatible/too different in demographics and priorities	2%
Do not want to lose local identity	1%
Do not want job losses that would come with amalgamation	1%
Need more information regarding the impact of merging	0%





The primary reason for preferring to merge with Hurstville Council was the similarity of the two council areas and their proximity to one another, followed by the merger creating efficiencies without creating too large an area.

## Reasons for Preference – Hurstville Council

Q5a. Thinking about the four options we have just discussed, which is your preferred option?

Q5b. Why do you say that?

Kogarah merging with Hurstville Council (n=45) – Percentages are to the total sample base of 607		%
Areas are similar and close to one another		3%
Merging with one other council will increase efficiencies without creating too large of an area		3%
Happy with Hurstville Council		1%
More economically efficient		1%
Want to see a reduction in the number of councils		1%
Increased efficiencies in the delivery of services		1%
Will not increase rates		0% (N=3)
Would be a benefit to Hurstville		0% (N=3)
Unhappy with other councils proposed to be merged with		0% (N=2)
Consistent policies/service delivery across the area		0% (N=1)
Unhappy with current council management		0% (N=1)
Would reduce bureaucracy/over-governing		0% (N=1)



The primary reason for preferring to merge with Hurstville and Rockdale Councils was the similarity of the areas and the close proximity to one another, followed by the potential for increased efficiencies in the delivery of services

## Reasons for Preference – Hurstville and Rockdale Councils

Q5a. Thinking about the four options we have just discussed, which is your preferred option?

Q5b. Why do you say that?

Kogarah merging with Hurstville and Rockdale Councils (n=26) – Percentages are to the total sample base of 607	%
Areas are similar demographically/Geographically close	3%
Increased efficiencies in the delivery of services	2%
Economy of scale	1%
Canterbury Council would not be suitable to be merged	1%
Would reduce bureaucracy/over-governing	1%
Unhappy with current council management	0% (N=3)
Consistent policies/service delivery across the area	0% (N=2)
Happy with Rockdale and Hurstville Councils	0% (N=2)
Would financially improve Kogarah's situation	0% (N=2)
Supportive of amalgamations in general	0% (N=1)





The primary reasons for preferring to merge with Hurstville, Rockdale, Canterbury Councils was less bureaucracy/fewer politicians, more economically efficient, increased efficiencies in the delivery of services, and consistent policies and services across the area

## Reasons for Preference – Hurstville, Rockdale, and Canterbury Councils

Q5a. Thinking about the four options we have just discussed, which is your preferred option?

Q5b. Why do you say that?

Kogarah merging with Hurstville, Rockdale, and Canterbury Councils (n=20) – Percentages are to the total sample base of 607	%
Less bureaucracy/Fewer politicians	1%
More economically efficient	1%
Increased efficiencies in the delivery of services	1%
Consistent policies/services across the area	1%
Economy of scale	0% (N=3)
Savings for ratepayers	0% (N=2)
Will support the merger as long as rates do not increase	0% (N=2)
Can still retain level of identity	0% (N=1)
NSW Government incentives	0% (N=1)
Standing alone is not viable	0% (N=1)
Unsure about accuracy of information regarding other councils' financial situations	0% (N=1)
Will reduce debt	0% (N=1)



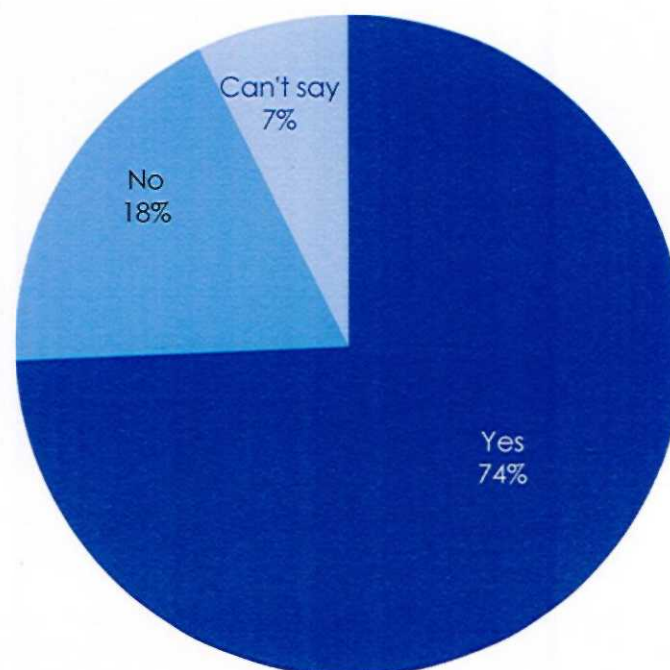
74% of residents claimed to receive the Kogarahlife newsletter on a regular basis.

Residents aged 50+ were more likely than those aged 18-34 to say they receive the newsletter.

Ratepayers were also more likely to receive Kogarahlife

# Receipt of the 'Kogarahlife' Newsletter

Q8. Every quarter, Council distributes to all households in the Kogarah LGA a resident newsletter titled 'Kogarahlife'. Do you receive this newsletter on a regular basis?

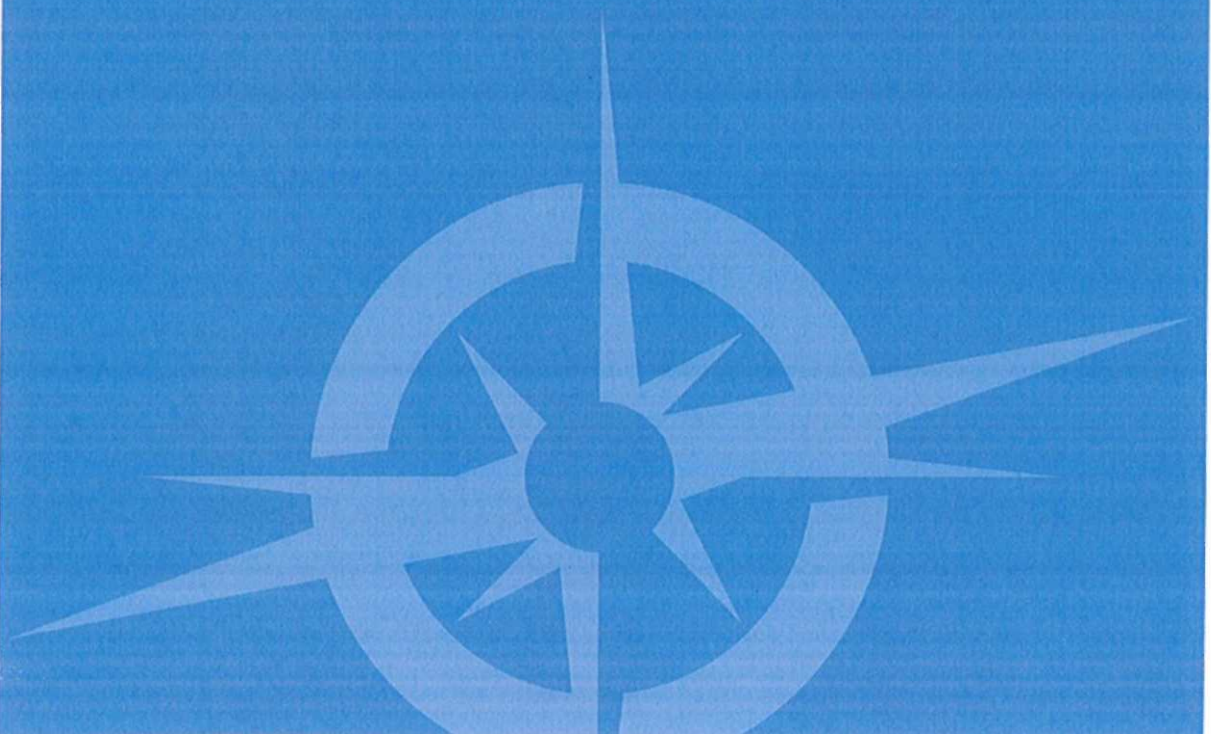


There were no significant differences by suburb

	Overall	Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
Base	607	291	316	194	170	140	103	558	49
Yes	74%	72%	76%	55%▼	79%	85%▲	87%▲	77%▲	48%
No	18%	21%	16%	30%▲	15%	12%	10%	17%	28%
Can't say	7%	7%	8%	15%▲	5%	3%	2%	6%	24%



# Summary



# Summary

## ***Overall Satisfaction with Council***

- 68% of residents were 'satisfied' to 'completely satisfied' with the overall performance of Council, with only 10% indicating they were 'not very satisfied' to 'not at all satisfied'

## ***Awareness of Amalgamation***

- 39% of residents were previously aware of the NSW Government's recommendation that Kogarah City Council merge with Hurstville, Rockdale, and Canterbury Councils, with half becoming aware via local newspapers

## ***The Future of the City of Kogarah***

- 34% of residents recalled receiving 'The Future of the City of Kogarah' brochure
- Residents 65+ and ratepayers were significantly more likely to recall receiving the information booklet
- Of those who recalled receiving the brochure, 74% spent time reading the information booklet, with residents averaging approximately 11 minutes spent reading or looking through the brochure

## ***Support for Proposed Options***

- When provided with an overview of the standalone and merger options, residents overwhelmingly prefer Kogarah City Council to stand alone and not merge with any other councils, with 85% indicating this as their preferred option
- The primary reason given for choosing standing alone as their first preference was Council's current financial sustainability/wanting to avoid taking on the debts of other councils
- There were low levels of support for the three proposed merger options, with the option to merge with Hurstville, Rockdale, and Canterbury rated the lowest with only 3% indicating it as their preference.





# Questionnaire





**Kogarah City Council  
Fit for the Future  
April 2015**

Good morning/afternoon/evening, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ from Micromex Research and we are conducting a survey with residents about the future of your Local Government area on behalf of Kogarah City Council.

For demographic purposes we ask if there might be someone in the house aged 18-34 who would be able to assist us.

**If no:** We encourage everyone 18 years and over to participate, would you be willing to assist with this please?

**If no:** Thank you anyway for your time.

**If yes:** Can I please confirm that you do live in the Kogarah City Council area?

**If no:** Unfortunately you are not eligible for the research. Thank you for your time.

**Q51. Before we start I would like to check whether you or an immediate family member work for Kogarah City Council?**

- ☐ Yes (If yes, terminate survey)
- ☐ No

**Q1. Which of these age groups do you fit into?**

- ☐ Under 18 (If under 18y/o, terminate survey)
- ☐ 18 – 34
- ☐ 35 – 49
- ☐ 50 – 64
- ☐ 65+

**Q2. Which suburb do you live in? (If crosses another LGA, ensure they are in Kogarah LGA)**

- ☐ Allawah (Crosses with Rockdale LGA)
- ☐ Beverley Park (Crosses with Rockdale LGA)
- ☐ Blakehurst
- ☐ Carlton (Crosses with Rockdale LGA)
- ☐ Carrs Park
- ☐ Connells Point
- ☐ Hurstville (Crosses with Hurstville LGA)
- ☐ Hurstville Grove
- ☐ Kogarah (Crosses with Rockdale LGA)
- ☐ Kogarah Bay
- ☐ Kyle Bay
- ☐ Maridale (Crosses with Hurstville LGA)
- ☐ Oatley (Crosses with Hurstville LGA)
- ☐ Penshurst (Crosses with Hurstville LGA)
- ☐ Sans Souci (Crosses with Rockdale LGA)
- ☐ South Hurstville

**Q3. In general, how satisfied are you with the performance of Kogarah City Council, and their services, not just on one or two issues but across all responsibility areas? Prompt**

- ☐ Very satisfied
- ☐ Satisfied
- ☐ Somewhat satisfied
- ☐ Not very satisfied
- ☐ Not at all satisfied

**Concept Statement**

'Fit for the Future' is the name given to the review of Local Government being carried out by the NSW State Government.

Under this review the NSW State Government is also encouraging local councils to amalgamate or merge, forming new, larger councils.

Kogarah City Council's position is that it is in the best interests of the residents that Kogarah stands alone and remains as Kogarah City Council.

Under any amalgamation with one or more of the neighbouring councils, residents would be burdened by rate increases ranging from \$146 to \$386 per annum. In addition, Kogarah residents would also be exposed to the cost burden of up to \$22.5 million in debt and an asset funding gap of up to \$18.8 million from day one of any amalgamation.

Kogarah City Council is committed to listening to your opinion of the future of our City. Council is considering four options and they would like to obtain your views of each of the four options to assist in preparing their submission to the Government.

The first option is (Rotate options):

**Q4a. Kogarah Council could stand alone and not merge with any other council. This option will meet all seven sustainability, infrastructure and efficiency benchmarks set by the NSW State Government by 2023 – as an example, Kogarah Council is debt-free. Furthermore, this option would not see Kogarah residents burdened by existing debts of other councils, and would deliver long-term financial sustainability based on Council's proven record of sound financial and asset management, while retaining Kogarah's identity.**

**How supportive are you of Kogarah City Council standing alone and not merging with any other councils? Prompt**

- ☐ Completely supportive
- ☐ Supportive
- ☐ Somewhat supportive
- ☐ Not very supportive
- ☐ Not at all supportive





**Q4b.** Kogarah Council could merge with Hurstville Council. By 2023, this option will meet six of the seven sustainability, infrastructure and efficiency benchmarks set by the NSW State Government. However, while Kogarah Council is currently debt-free, Hurstville Council is carrying debt of \$7.5 million, and a merger would likely result in an increase in residential and business rates for Kogarah ratepayers. There is also likely to be less Councillor representation for residents and businesses.

How supportive are you of Kogarah City Council merging with Hurstville Council? *Prompt*

- ☐ Completely supportive
- ☐ Supportive
- ☐ Somewhat supportive
- ☐ Not very supportive
- ☐ Not at all supportive

**Q4c.** Kogarah Council could merge with Hurstville and Rockdale Councils. By 2023, this option will only meet three of the seven sustainability, infrastructure and efficiency benchmarks set by the NSW State Government due to Infrastructure and Asset backlogs within the Rockdale LGA. Furthermore, while Kogarah Council is currently debt-free, both Hurstville and Rockdale Councils are carrying debt that totals \$14.8 million, and a merger would likely result in an increase in residential and business rates for Kogarah ratepayers. There is also likely to be less Councillor representation for residents and businesses.

How supportive are you of Kogarah City Council merging with Hurstville and Rockdale Councils? *Prompt*

- ☐ Completely supportive
- ☐ Supportive
- ☐ Somewhat supportive
- ☐ Not very supportive
- ☐ Not at all supportive

**Q4d.** Kogarah Council could merge with Hurstville, Rockdale and Canterbury Councils. This is the recommendation of the NSW Government's Fit for the Future program. By 2023, this option will only meet four of the seven sustainability, infrastructure and efficiency benchmarks set by the NSW State Government due to Infrastructure and Asset backlogs within the Rockdale and Canterbury LGAs. Furthermore, while Kogarah Council is currently debt-free, Hurstville, Rockdale and Canterbury Councils are carrying debt that totals \$22.5 million, and a merger would likely result in an increase in residential and business rates for Kogarah ratepayers. There is also likely to be less Councillor representation for residents and businesses.

How supportive are you of Kogarah City Council merging with Hurstville, Rockdale and Canterbury Councils? *Prompt*

- ☐ Completely supportive
- ☐ Supportive
- ☐ Somewhat supportive
- ☐ Not very supportive
- ☐ Not at all supportive

**Q5a.** Thinking about the four options we have just discussed, which is your preferred option? *Prompt* (Rotate first four options)

- ☐ Kogarah Council standing alone and not merging with any other councils
- ☐ Kogarah merging with Hurstville Council
- ☐ Kogarah merging with Hurstville and Rockdale Councils
- ☐ Kogarah merging with Hurstville, Rockdale and Canterbury Councils
- ☐ (Do NOT Read) Can't say

**Q5b.** Why do you say that?

.....

**Q6a.** Prior to this call, were you aware that the NSW Government had recommended that Kogarah City Council merge with Hurstville, Rockdale and Canterbury Councils?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No (Go to Q7a)
- ☐ Not sure (Go to Q7a)

**Q6b.** Where did you hear about the proposal to potentially merge Kogarah Council with the other councils? Please answer yes or no as I read each of the following (MR, Prompt)

- ☐ Council mail out/flyer
- ☐ Other Council communication (please specify) .....
- ☐ TV news
- ☐ Radio
- ☐ Local newspapers
- ☐ Word of mouth (please specify) .....
- ☐ Other (please specify) .....
- ☐ (Do not read) Can't recall

Ask everyone:

**Q7a.** Last week, Council distributed a 12-page A4-sized booklet to all households in the Kogarah LGA. The booklet was titled "The Future of the City of Kogarah" and it explained the State Government's plans for council mergers and outlined Council's position. Do you remember receiving that brochure at home in the past week or two?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No (Go to Q8)
- ☐ Can't say (Go to Q8)

**Q7b.** How long, if at all, would you have personally spent reading or looking through that brochure? *Prompt*

Record minutes: \_\_\_\_\_

Ask everyone:

**Q8.** Every quarter, Council distributes to all households in the Kogarah LGA a resident newsletter titled 'Kogarahlife'. Do you receive this newsletter on a regular basis?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Can't say



Finally, some questions about you...

**Q9. Do you own or rent the property you are living in?**

- ☐ I/We own/are currently buying this property
- ☐ I/We currently rent this property

**Q10. How many years have you lived in the Kogarah City Council Local Government Area? Prompt**

- ☐ Less than 6 months
- ☐ 6 months to 2 years
- ☐ 3 – 5 years
- ☐ 6 – 10 years
- ☐ More than 10 years

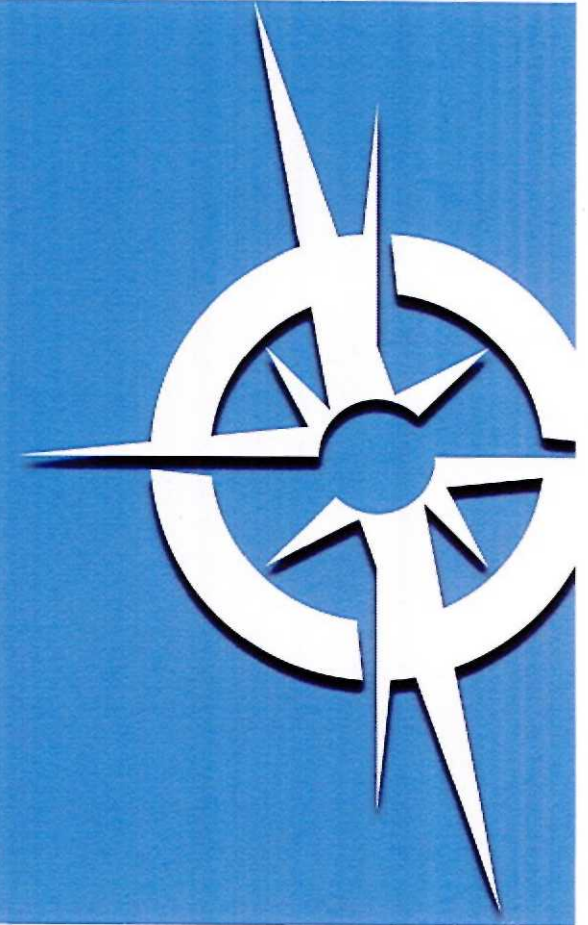
That completes our interview. Thank you very much for your time.

**Q11. Gender (determine by voice):**

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female







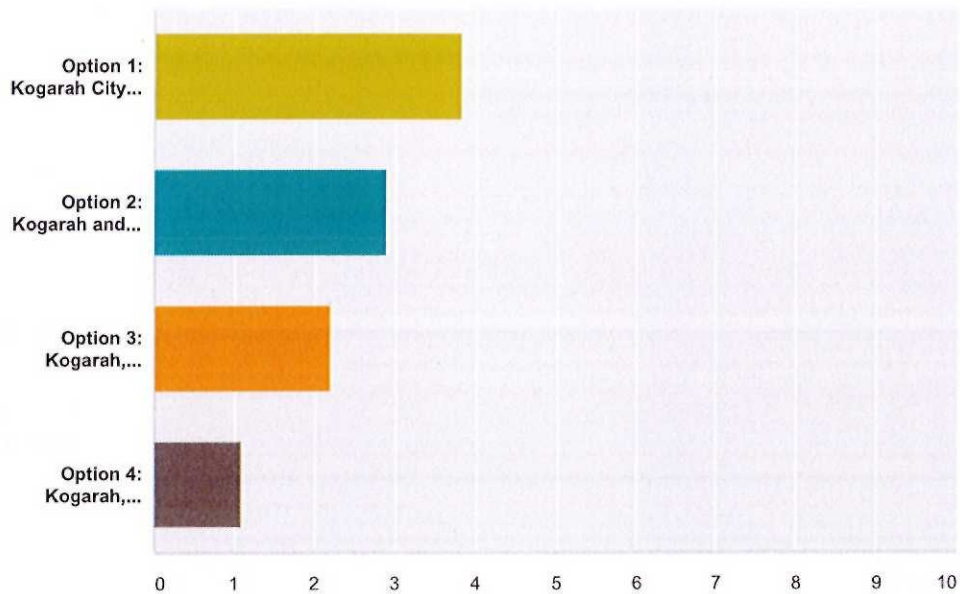
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## The Future of the City of Kogarah

**Q1 Please rate the following options - with one (1) being your preferred option and four (4) being your least preferred option.**

Answered: 169 Skipped: 2



	1	2	3	4	Total	Score
Option 1: Kogarah City Council	91.72% 155	1.78% 3	3.55% 6	2.96% 5	169	3.82
Option 2: Kogarah and Hurstville Council amalgamation	1.80% 3	86.83% 145	11.38% 19	0.00% 0	167	2.90
Option 3: Kogarah, Hurstville and Rockdale Council amalgamation	5.39% 9	8.98% 15	84.43% 141	1.20% 2	167	2.19
Option 4: Kogarah, Hurstville, Rockdale and Canterbury amalgamation	1.19% 2	2.38% 4	0.60% 1	95.83% 161	168	1.09



## The Future of the City of Kogarah

### Q2 Please provide any additional comments below

Answered: 108 Skipped: 63

#	Responses	Date
1	I am a Rockdale City rate payer, but I live in the Kogarah Council area. I would like to say that as far as councils go, Kogarah Council offers its residents far superior services to its community than Rockdale Council does. I would not like to see the corruption scandals and rising debts from both Hurstville and Rockdale councils to be thrust upon the Kogarah community. Keep Kogarah Council as it is!	6/19/2015 3:50 PM
2	My family have been residents of Kogarah Municipality for 20 years. We had moved from Newtown to a the great suburban suburb of Carlton for a more less stressful lifestyle. The area has excellent infrastructure and well maintained facilities. There are vast demographic differences amongst neighbouring municipalities and I feel that the amalgamation of the adjoining municipalities will not fairly make the more appropriate or accurate decisions for our unique Kogarah community or visa versa. The development of Kogarah is credit due to the residents of the community and the management of Kogarah Council. It is all about the people that live there we have our own identity which has been developed over many years with and this should not be jeopardised in any way. Since Kogarah council is doing such a great job and is debt free it may pay the Government to look at the way Kogarah council is run and assist the other municipalities with training and ideas to further improve their own area and not piggy back off ours. Our family disagrees with any amalgamation with other councils.	6/19/2015 2:39 PM
3	Why do Kogarah residents keep having to sacrifice our lifestyle for others. No more sacrifices for other councils and locations and more compromise please. The government has already dramatically impacted peak hour train commute by taking away all express services from Kogarah and shifting them out west. Lets have a bit of give and take please for Kogarah residents rather than just take, take, take. Also I have a problem with the fact that property prices are higher in Rockdale and Hurstville council areas, so the those council homeowners are already benefiting with higher asset values of their homes, yet Kogarah residents with lesser valued homes have to subsidise the Rockdale and Hurstville residents due to poorer performing council operations. Somethings not right with that ?	6/18/2015 9:57 PM
4	Access to Councillors support for Kogarah severely reduced, resulting in our assets being used in ways in which we have no say. In all adverse affects to our local area.	6/17/2015 12:04 PM
5	As Kogarah ratepayers we already have an efficient and financially well managed Council. We should not be required to take on the debt of inefficient councils by way of amalgamation.	6/16/2015 3:25 PM
6	Kogarah city council needs to remain a stand alone council to cater to the unique area and maintain it's integrity to protect parks and nature area.	6/16/2015 2:51 PM
7	I am TOTALLY against amalgamation of Councils. The governments plan is NOT in the best interests of the Australian people and keeping Councils unique to themselves. Very tired of politicians making decisions that will fill the pockets of developers and big business at the expense of the people.	6/16/2015 12:22 PM
8	No need to burden Kogarah with the debts and asset funding gaps of other councils.	6/15/2015 11:08 PM
9	NO to amalgamation! YES to sacking and replacing our self-serving Councillers as quickly as we can!!	6/15/2015 11:26 AM
10	I fully believe and strongly support the views of CR Michael Platt, that any sort of amalgamation with any of the other councils would be of great detriment to our lifestyle. Why fix something when its not broken?	6/14/2015 7:28 PM
11	I dont see why we need to clean up other councils problems and pay for it as well.	6/13/2015 9:58 AM
12	i do not want Kogarah council to amalgamate	6/12/2015 11:26 PM

## The Future of the City of Kogarah

13	<p>I'm a resident living in Kogarah, and I do NOT want to merge with any other council at all. Even though I have a Chinese background, I still prefer to buy a property and live in Kogarah rather than Hurstville because I like what Kogarah council have done for the whole community. For example, I always find clean and clear when I walk in Kogarah, compared to Hurstville, I always find rubbish and dried leaves along the streets and roads. Just based on this point, I cannot see where the Hurstville council uses the money that comes from our residents' tax payment. In addition, there was a horrible news in Kogarah in couple months ago. There was an accident happened near the bus stop and killed a young girl. Kogarah Council responded to this efficiently, and it moved the bus stop to another safety spot and built up some protective fence along the street to prevent the accident like this happen again. Let's assume that we merge these few councils together, I do Not think the responding action can be efficient like this because larger council means longer and comprehensive decision making processing to me. Finally, based on the brochure titled 'The Future of the City of Kogarah', I also find that we are responsible for the debt after we merge with any other council, however we do NOT have any debt if we stay with ourselves. Therefore, I can not see any point that we need to merge with other council/councils for a "better" future. If Kogarah council need more supports from the residents, please email me anytime by [REDACTED] then I can ask my neighbours to support this.</p>	6/12/2015 4:41 PM
14	I see no benefit of Kogarah amalgamate with Canterbury, Rockdale, and Hurstville City councils. The overdevelopment, crowded shopping centers in Hurstville has scared me away from shopping there. Please leave Kogarah alone as it has become our last resort of peaceful residential feelings.	6/11/2015 6:43 PM
15	Best Option for Kogarah's future is to stand alone NO amalgamation. In fact I am opposed to amalgamation and community disenfranchisement in general. The survey does not accurately canvas community views as other options in the mix skew the results and there is no option that doesn't EXCLUDE Hurstville. Kogarah should never amalgamate with Hurstville under any circumstances for a raft of reasons social, economic and environmental.	6/11/2015 2:05 PM
16	Kogarah council must stay on its own. This is for the benefit of all the residents.	6/11/2015 1:14 AM
17	no amalgamation	6/10/2015 7:19 PM
18	I do not want Kogarah Council to amalgamate with any of the other councils as the money that I pay in rates will go to help everywhere else other than my Kogarah council suburbs. Furthermore those other councils are absolutely disgusting in the way they act!	6/10/2015 2:59 PM
19	Keep Kogarah as a seperate council.	6/9/2015 11:18 PM
20	Do not want to have to pay back debt of other councils	6/8/2015 9:49 PM
21	There is no benefit to Kogarah benefits. If the state government insists on further consideration of this proposal it should conduct a referendum.	6/8/2015 9:45 PM
22	Why didn't Kogarah City Council offer residents a similar survey in relation to its proposed LEP or "New City Plan" changes? It's disturbing that you only seek resident input when it suits you &/or when your jobs are on the line. Where is the CONSULTATION? Where is the RESPECT?	6/7/2015 3:04 PM
23	We have a superb local Council. Options 2,3 and 4 are really about propping up the relative economic and administrative inefficiency of the other councils.	6/7/2015 2:25 PM
24	I do not wish to see Kogarah merged with any debt ridden,backlogged and under represented other councils particularly given the recent crisis of confidence at both Rockdale & Hurstville councils	6/5/2015 1:41 PM
25	The only way for amalgamation going forward is if ALL councils are debt free.	6/4/2015 2:05 PM
26	Kogarah City Council should stand alone.	6/4/2015 12:11 PM
27	We need Kogarah City Council to stand alone.	6/4/2015 12:11 PM
28	No No No! AMALGAMATION. Why merge with badly managed and non financial councils.	6/4/2015 12:10 PM
29	How long can you stand alone? Can you sack the other councillors if you have to join the other ones.	6/4/2015 12:09 PM
30	Based on the information presented in this brochure. I concur with the councils findings.	6/4/2015 12:08 PM
31	Definitely stand alone. My view is, why would Kogarah Council take on other councils debt? I would not be pleased having to pay so much more rates. There would be such a large area to maintain even with one amalgamation. I cant understand the logic.	6/4/2015 12:07 PM
32	Could we have a community consultation on proposed housing density?	6/4/2015 12:05 PM
33	Kogarah Council is more efficient.	6/4/2015 12:04 PM



## The Future of the City of Kogarah

34	Why should the fortunate residents of Kogarah City be forced to pay more than they do now because other badly managed councils. We don't want Hurstville Council overdevelopment policies.	6/4/2015 12:03 PM
35	Feel that any amalgamation would be financially detrimental to Kogarah rate payers.	6/4/2015 12:02 PM
36	It seems to me that as the approach what will be a difficult time that the electorate people should also be involved here with some adjustment to boundaries. I am living in Beverley Park, Kogarah LGA but in Rockdale state electorate.	6/4/2015 12:01 PM
37	No Amalgamation please. Kogarah Council is debt free.	6/4/2015 11:58 AM
38	Do not want to amalgamate with Rockdale or Canterbury. Would rather Kogarah stand alone.	6/4/2015 11:58 AM
39	Kogarah Council is by far the best of the four. E.g. Debt Free. Please NO amalgamation.	6/4/2015 11:57 AM
40	Being debt free, I don't think Kogarah Council should take on any other councils debts. Its like me taking on another persons personal debt due to mismanagement of money like the other councils. Nobody should be in debt!!!!	6/4/2015 11:56 AM
41	No merger!	6/4/2015 11:56 AM
42	I cannot get a park near my house and heritage rules will not let me have a carport - what on earth will happen with even more residences. Kogarah land area is the smallest with the least open public space per ha than other councils listed. Canterbury is too big already to amalgamate with. Hurstville should be the designated high rise area. Why was a Rockdale/Kogarah amalgamation not given as an option?	5/16/2015 11:18 AM
43	stats provided by Rochdale council show kogarah has least public space, land area, population but highest costs and staff numbers per pop of these 4 councils. Already massive problems parking for locals, there is not the land area or infrastructure to support kogarahs town plans.	5/16/2015 10:57 AM
44	If forced it should be Kogarah, Hurstville and Rockdale. We share many things, garbage contractor etc. We could be St George Council. However we seem to be going ok. Standable.	5/15/2015 3:50 PM
45	3 Councils with an accumulated debt of \$22.5million would become a burden to Kogarah. Cannot be absorbed without losses to status quo. Morally and business wise, it would be totally absurd to absorb and contribute towards lower standards to what could be considered as someone else's dying wish. Management has to look at what and who would control such a program of amalgamation. It would take god to bring about change and he has his hands full at this point in time. When the cup is full, don't fill it to overflowing.	5/15/2015 3:48 PM
46	Amalgamation of any kind means less power to an individual body. I am against mass rule.	5/15/2015 3:41 PM
47	I think we would be worse off if we join with our neighbouring councils.	5/15/2015 3:40 PM
48	Unacceptable amalgamation. Higher rates, less service. NO WAY!	5/15/2015 3:40 PM
49	Not happy for any amalgamations. Councils NEED to be local to cater for their rate payers.	5/15/2015 3:38 PM
50	Why change something that works well. Amalgamation never works out well for the one who works well and smarter.	5/15/2015 3:37 PM
51	We want Kogarah to keep it's independence.	5/15/2015 3:37 PM
52	Kogarah to merge with Rockdale and Hurstville and name it 'St George Council'.	5/15/2015 3:36 PM
53	Sorry, cant be any clearer than that. Also, please don't turn Kogarah into a high rise slum with wall to wall rabbit warrens, gridlocked roads, no-where to park etc. Once lovely suburb has already been ruined, stop before it becomes another Hong Kong. If the Government wants to increase in slums, start creating them on the north side of Sydney, leave the south side alone. rubbish other areas for a change.	5/15/2015 3:35 PM
54	ONLY KOGARAH. I oppose any amalgamation. Kogarah should stay a stay a stand alone Council. We are over populated already and don't need or want more units.	5/15/2015 3:29 PM
55	Kogarah Council is doing quite well on it's own and does not need the baggage of other councils to hinder it's future plans.	5/15/2015 3:27 PM
56	I would hate to think we would inherit the debts of other councils that have obviously been mismanaged for years. Congratulations to Kogarah.	5/15/2015 3:26 PM
57	We find the brochure enlightening. We are most concerned that our healthy position re debt, should be jeopardised by amalgamation with Council's that have not performed as well.	5/15/2015 3:25 PM

## The Future of the City of Kogarah

58	Why weren't these surveys delivered to each letterbox. In my block of 17 villas only 4 were delivered, wrapped inside advertising material. It seems a fairly unreliable way to gather feedback on such an important issue. With no reply envelope included, I wonder what percentage of the current population 60,411 will answer.	5/15/2015 3:23 PM
59	Disadvantages with adoption of opinions 2, 3 and 4. Based on experience, Industrial unrest more than likely, with an ever increasing labour force and it's subsequent consequence. P.S. A controversial subject, but I do hope it was considered in drawing up the worthy survey.	5/15/2015 3:21 PM
60	Leave well alone. See pages 02 'The Leader' 23.04.2015 and page 06 - trip Hurstville Council, Rockdale Council.	5/15/2015 3:18 PM
61	I prefer less council's, Kogarah, Rockdale & Hurstville seems best as they are all in the St George area.	5/15/2015 3:16 PM
62	The negatives far outweigh the benefits. We do not want unnecessary rate increases.	5/15/2015 3:15 PM
63	We do not want to amalgamate with councils that have debts and too many people. Limit high rise in Kogarah and provide for more villas/single storey places for seniors wishing to downsize. If you don't there will never be large homes available for families.	5/15/2015 3:14 PM
64	Rate reference no - 32128	5/15/2015 3:12 PM
65	I think we are paying enough now for rates. I don't think we should have to pay more.	5/15/2015 3:11 PM
66	The state governments did this with area health's, confirmed hospitals administration. Causing and still causing havoc. Worst System in Australia. now Council's will follow...they never learn.	5/15/2015 3:10 PM
67	We do not want to be - 'Swallowed up', subject to rate increases, burdened with other council debt, disadvantaged by the direction of funds away from infrastructure maintenance, development, improvement etc etc	5/15/2015 3:08 PM
68	Have a strong preference for option 1 though option 2 would be acceptable. Very much against options 3 & 4.	5/15/2015 3:04 PM
69	Strongly oppose the amalgamation with Canterbury Council due to the debt and high level of backlog infrastructure.	5/15/2015 3:02 PM
70	I don't want to inherit debt and pay higher rates.	5/14/2015 9:34 PM
71	I don't want to pay more rates for less personalised service.	5/14/2015 9:03 PM
72	Kogarah Council is a very proactive, efficient and financially sound organization. Why should Kogarah ratepayers subsidise other councils' poor economic management?	5/13/2015 10:25 PM
73	Given that Canterbury local area is far bigger than Kogarah, my concern is that there would be more red tape and slowing down of council processes. You also have some very diverse cultural groups in each of these councils which each have their own special needs and areas of focus which may take away from the needs of an other local area.	5/13/2015 4:14 PM
74	Notwithstanding the financial analysis presented in 'the Future of the City of Kogarah' document, I believe the communities of interest is more important. Not wanting to take a simplistic football view of the world, both the St George rugby league and the St George Leader local newspaper reflect a natural communities of interest in this area of Sydney. It is hard to understand that common HR, finance, customer service, and governance/administration teams would not provide efficiency in the long term.	5/12/2015 8:32 PM
75	Planning controls should be better scrutinised to deter the O'Bieds, Smiths and Wehbe's of this world.	5/12/2015 6:14 PM
76	This is a stupid idea	5/12/2015 5:59 PM
77	This is a stupid idea to amalgamate.	5/12/2015 5:57 PM
78	being residents for over 60 years we are entirely satisfied & grateful for Kogarah's efforts to build this city.	5/11/2015 11:46 AM
79	Only Option 1 is the answer	5/11/2015 11:38 AM
80	No amalgamation. Kogarah will be more sustainable as an independent council electorate.	5/9/2015 2:25 PM
81	I think this is a good idea. We need more housing for younger people.	5/7/2015 3:09 AM
82	I don't want to be burdened with extra council rates because other councils can't budget properly	5/6/2015 8:09 AM
83	anticipate massive reduction in services with proposed changes	5/5/2015 11:00 PM
84	Merge. It makes the most practical sense!!!	5/5/2015 6:54 PM



## The Future of the City of Kogarah

85	Kogarah council provides a great area to live in and I would like it to stay that way definitely without any amalgamation with any other council.	5/5/2015 11:33 AM
86	It's a bit rich for Kogarah Council to dump their new "city plan" on us (rezoning sites to high density, and to unit blocks, etc), and then talk about needing to keep the amenity and lifestyle that Kogarah offers. If this new city plan goes ahead, then I'm all for the merger as the reasons to stay separate no longer exist.	5/5/2015 10:03 AM
87	I do not support the amalgamation of Kogarah with other councils. Why should a well run council have to support others.	5/4/2015 7:48 AM
88	The community is entitled to obtain the significant benefits and efficiencies of the broad amalgamation of Councils in the Sydney region.	5/3/2015 10:51 AM
89	Option 1 stand alone is really all i want.	5/1/2015 4:21 PM
90	We have a good council why take on everyone else's problems and debt more negatives than positives for kogarah	5/1/2015 12:13 PM
91	why fix something when it is not broken?	4/30/2015 10:05 PM
92	Really only Options 1 and 2 are a real prospect. Option 1 being the most viable and community friendly option. Option 4 should not even be considered. Ridiculous notion.	4/27/2015 5:13 PM
93	The current debt levels and infrastructure repair backlogs of Canterbury and Rockdale would mean lessening of services to Kogarah residents	4/27/2015 12:37 PM
94	I want the rates that I pay to benefit the local council area and fear amalgamation would reduce the amount of funds available to the area.	4/26/2015 7:16 PM
95	Residents of Kogarah should not be forced to bail out councils which have not been financially responsible in the past	4/26/2015 12:17 PM
96	The council provides minimal services now. eg. cannot even tell the residents when the street sweeper is due to clean the street and does a lousy job when it does. Always leaves sticks etc behind. So the joining with any other councils (mostly are in debt) will cost Kogarah rate payers more money just so the other councils can come up to scratch.	4/26/2015 11:37 AM
97	Concerned about the increased debt burden that options 2-4 will result in.	4/26/2015 11:23 AM
98	If Kogarah cannot remain independent are there other options to merge with more similar size councils? Hurstville, Rockdale and Canterbury are quite similar and a good fit! Our argument can be Kogarah is not a good fit and its citizens end up carrying an unfair burden due fewer and larger landlots.	4/25/2015 2:32 PM
99	I do not agree with the Australian and NSW governments' continual push for unsustainable population growth. Any option other than 1 would see Kogarah City residents suddenly liable for the shortcomings of less well managed neighbouring councils.	4/25/2015 1:36 PM
100	Thanks for the concise summary delivered to my home	4/25/2015 10:01 AM
101	Amalgamating at any level will be to the detriment of Kogarah Council. Our's would be the only Council losing. All other Council's will gain from combining with Kogarah. NO AMALGAMATION!!!!!!	4/24/2015 6:08 PM
102	I believe that we should remain as Kogarah City Council only. I don't believe that we should take on other councils debts. If the other Councils can get their debt under control, to a nil balance, like Kogarah has then perhaps amalgamating the councils would be an option, but not under the current circumstances.	4/24/2015 3:09 PM
103	We don't want higher rates and less personalised service	4/24/2015 2:53 PM
104	Option 1 is not just preferred it is the only option we want.	4/23/2015 9:04 PM
105	Bigger is not necessarily more efficient.	4/23/2015 6:23 PM
106	As a resident of Kogarah City Council I think we should Standalone because we do not want to carry other people's debt.	4/23/2015 5:06 PM
107	Options 2, 3 & 4 are not really options, only liabilities, to be strenuously rejected.	4/23/2015 1:16 PM
108	I absolutely support Council's submission for the standalone option	4/23/2015 1:04 PM

## **Community Reference Group**

### **Summary of Meeting 6 May 2015**

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Kogarah City Council's Community Reference Group is a group of residents of the Kogarah Local Government Area that was formed in 2011. The group was randomly selected and has an equitable representation of various target groups reflecting Council's demographic profile. Since that time, the Group has met on a regular basis with Council staff to discuss relevant issues that affect our local community. The Group serves to complement other elements of Council's broader consultation framework.

At the Group's most recent meeting on Wednesday 6 May, the topic of Local Government Reform and the NSW State Government's 'Fit for the Future' program was on the agenda.

Mayor of Kogarah Cr Michael Platt and General Manager Paul Woods presented to the meeting, providing background on the reform process and details of four options for the future of the City of Kogarah. These options are:

1. Kogarah to remain as Kogarah and stand alone
2. A Kogarah City and Hurstville City merger
3. A Kogarah City, Hurstville City and Rockdale City merger
4. A Kogarah City, Hurstville City, Rockdale City and Canterbury City merger

As part of the consultation process with the group they were given the task of assessing the advantages and disadvantages that had been identified by Council in the Fit for the Future publication and also asked if there were additional points to add to the list. Overall the group concurred with the advantages and disadvantages that were listed within the publication.

The Community Reference Group listed their main concerns as:

- a reduction in Councillor representation as result of a merged council
- the loss of Kogarah's identity and key community and cultural events
- the considerable transition costs related to any merger
- that a larger council would mean a reduction in grants and support for local community organisations and sporting groups

At the end of the session the group unanimously choose Kogarah to stand alone as their preferred option. The group opposed the recommendation by the Independent Local Government Review Panel, with the inclusion of Canterbury City Council being their least favourite option.

The Community Reference Group believes that by standing alone, Kogarah's long term financial sustainability would be secured as would a high level of councillor representation.



INSERT ADDRESS HERE

Dear Resident,

As your Kogarah City Council (*insert ward name*) Ward Councillors, we are writing to you to express our concerns regarding the NSW State Government's proposal for the amalgamation of your council.

Part of the State Government's 'Fit for the Future' local government reform program proposes the merging of councils. In regards to our City, it has been proposed that Kogarah amalgamate with Canterbury, Rockdale and Hurstville City Councils.

An information brochure outlining the 'Fit for the Future' program as well as various merger options and their impacts was sent to all residents at the end of April. If you did not receive a copy, you can read the brochure online at [www.kogarah.nsw.gov.au/fitforthefuture](http://www.kogarah.nsw.gov.au/fitforthefuture) or contact Council on 9330 9400 and request for a copy to be mailed to you.

Our concerns regarding any amalgamation of Kogarah with one or more of our neighbours centre around the impact of any such amalgamation on you, our constituents. Council has engaged an independent consultant to gather data on the outcomes of amalgamations and the information received clearly demonstrates that any amalgamation would be less than favourable to Kogarah residents.

A major impact would be rate increases ranging from \$146 to \$386 per annum. In addition, money that would have been spent in your local area will be diverted to raise the standard of assets and infrastructure of those other areas to the equivalent of that enjoyed by residents of the City of Kogarah.

Further, the councillor representation which you currently have access to would be severely impacted in a larger council and our Kogarah identity would be diluted, something that we do not want to see happen. We are proud to serve as your (*insert ward name*) Ward Councillors and we want to preserve the current access you have to all your councillors. Whilst we support initiatives to continually improve on the operation and performance of local government, we are keen to ensure that those initiatives are not to the detriment of our residents.

The independent data Council has received provides the foundation on which you can form your own opinion on this important issue which in turn, we are keen to listen to. We urge you to read the information brochure Council has prepared and voice your opinion on the future of the City of Kogarah. We invite each of you to contact us to discuss this issue that, if implemented, will affect the lifestyle you currently enjoy as well as our collective future.

Yours sincerely

Councillor xxx

Councillor xxx

Councillor xxx

28 Vista Ave

Rockhurst Heights

NSW 2210

Dear Sir,

I am expressing my concern and opposition entirely to the NSW Governments program for Local Government known as Fit for the Future.

I would like the councils to remain as they are as the demographics are completely different for all councils considered in this proposed amalgamation. The community services required for the ratepayers of each council are quite different.

Canterbury has an extremely large infrastructure backlog. If Hurstville combined with it then our rates would be diverted to Canterbury residents to bring their area up to the standard of Hurstville and Kogarah. Canterbury has an enormous problem with renters continuously dumping their garbage on the pavements when they vacate their premises. Trucks weekly go up and down streets picking up this rubbish. Instead of their rates going into vital services and infrastructure, it is going into cleaning up the streets, dumping fees and maintenance from vandalism.

Canterbury has two ageing swimming pools built in the 60;s and will eventually need funds spent on them to bring up to the standard of Hurstville aquatic center. Rockdale demolished Bexley Pool and the new leisure center to be completed by 2016 has not commenced.

Ratepayers of Hurstville and Kogarah would have their payments diverted away to meet the immediate needs of the Rockdale and Canterbury Councils to bring them up to the standard.

If this amalgamation takes place, then which rate structure will we have, the lowest being Kogarah's or Canterbury's being the highest.

My views on the future of Hurstville Council are to leave it as it is. Or at best only amalgamate it with Kogarah Council, as the demographics are very similar.

Yours faithfully

Sharon Edmenson



**Nicole Rogan**

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**From:** Diana Simms <diana.simms@ozemail.com.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 23 April 2015 3:04 PM  
**To:** KCC FitFortheFuture  
**Subject:** (DWS Doc No 1249072) Fit for the future

I am in favour of Kogarah council remaining independent of other councils (Option 1).

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Nicole Rogan**

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**From:** David Martin Schorn and White & Co  
**Sent:** Thursday, 23 April 2015 5:48 PM  
**To:** KCC FitFortheFuture  
**Subject:** (DWS Doc No 1249071) Amalgamation of councils

As soon as I heard the proposal my immediate thoughts were ,if there is any increase in rates due to taking on debts incurred by the other Councils then that it is unfair.

What is the objective of Amalgamation ? If it is to increase the efficiencies and to thereby save costs through presumably economies of scale , what are the projected savings , and what will this mean to our rates ?

If amalgamations are unavoidable surely each council area can be treated as a sub area as you do now with business rates and household , so there would be no need to average out the rates paid ,so that, Kogarah would pay no more than we do now and we could still receive a saving in each area based on the improved efficiencies \$'s divided by the number of ratepayers so pay less ,the more ratepayers the less each individual receives .

If there are no savings made through the proposed amalgamation why bother ?

Why should we have to pay more for infrastructure building in the other areas? The Government seems to want more and more immigrants in Sydney instead of developing the regional areas ? A bigger population means more congestion and strains placed on the current services which places greater demands on servicing the needs of that population and thereby increasing the costs of the current residents -there ought to be an embargo on increased development in Sydney.

No more High-rise in Hurstville and the other council areas ,selling dog boxes in the sky off the plan to overseas investors placing a greater demand for services .

What do we get from all of this ,an increased value on our houses ,so much so that our children can't afford to live in other than rental accommodation and as the rateable value goes up so do our rates .

Tell the Government that if they wish to sell this proposal the rates for the individual ratepayers must not change ,in fact they ought to be reduced as the costs are shared by more people.

Best regards [Redacted]



**Nicole Rogan**

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**From:** Lorraine Young <younglb55@yahoo.co.uk>  
**Sent:** Friday, 1 May 2015 8:52 PM  
**To:** KCC FitFortheFuture  
**Subject:** (DWS Doc No 1257640) Council Merger -NO NO NO

The General Manager  
Kogarah Council

Dear Sir

I do hope Council will push to "go it alone" and not merge with other nearby insolvent, badly managed and corrupt councils.

For all the reasons mentioned by Cr Michael Platt in the article in The Leader this week, Kogarah ratepayers want to have an efficient and debt-free Council. Most certainly I especially do not wish any merger with the dreadful Rockdale Council (being a ratepayer of that Council some years ago was not a good experience).

Good luck with your endeavours.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted Signature]

Nicole Rogan

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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Saturday, 2 May 2015 12:22 PM  
To: KCC FitFortheFuture  
Subject: (DWS Doc No 1257643) Amalgamation Feedback

To The General Manager of Kogarah Council and Councillors,

I have read the 'Fit for the future' brochure, completed the telephone survey and taken a keen interest over the years in Sydney planning.

As a long time resident of Kogarah Municipality and the St.George area I would like to provide some feedback on the current debate.

1. As a resident of the St.George area I spend much of my time shopping, travelling, eating at restaurants and visiting friends and places in many areas of Sydney. As a result, I have been directly impacted by poor amenities in many parts of Sydney but especially in the Kogarah, Rockdale, Hurstville and Canterbury council areas. I believe if we had a larger, single council, planning and management decisions would be made with a broader perspective and benefit all resident's lifestyles. It would see an improvement to roads and services across the whole area and a more holistic approach to planning decisions.
2. If Kogarah council has demonstrated such an excellent record in managing it's affairs, wouldn't it be great for it to share its knowledge and skills for the benefit of a much population and area ?
3. Imagine the leverage an expanded council, taking in 9% of the Sydney population would have in lobbying for state and federal funds that could be used for expanded cultural and social infrastructure and services. We might even attract some world class facilities that would place us on the tourist map.
4. Good business practice is to leverage efficiencies of scale to save costs and improve the standardisation of service. Councils are not immune from this and need to embrace this opportunity.
5. Overseas experience has shown us many best practice examples of how truly global cities manage themselves for a 'whole of city' planning perspective. Two examples are the City of London and Tokyo where the whole city is under a single management structure. This allows zoning, transport and infrastructure decisions to be made for the benefit of the whole city.

Wouldn't it be great if we broke out of our limited perspectives and self interests and made bold decisions that helped take Sydney into the 21st century as a truly global city ?

Sincerely a resident of Sydney  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



**Nicole Rogan**

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**From:** John and Catherine Rodger - jnrodg@bigpond.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 19 May 2015 2:32 PM  
**To:** KCC FitFortheFuture  
**Subject:** (DWS Doc No 1257644) Council Amalgamation - AGAINST

Dear Mr. Mayor,

My wife and I are long time residents of Kogarah Council, myself 52 years and my wife 25 years, and we would like to voice our strongest objections to the amalgamation of Kogarah Council with other Councils.

Any financial incentive provided by the State Government would be eaten up by the other Councils debt and the costs involved by the amalgamation such as stationary, re-signage and redundancies etc. Not to mention the need for an increased size of facilities for the amalgamated staff. Whilst I have not always agreed with Council's actions, Kogarah has always been fiscally responsible and relatively crime free. Unlike a number of the Councils that are proposed for amalgamation, like Rockdale whose finances have been a 'basket case', have been mired in corruption and even had councillors boycott meetings. Hurstville Council is still embroiled in an email hate campaign conspiracy costing tens of thousands of dollars to date so far with still no result.

Therefore please mark us down as fully committed against amalgamation with any other Council.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted Signature]

**Nicole Rogan**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 27 May 2015 1:05 PM  
**To:** KCC FitFortheFuture  
**Subject:** (DWS Doc No 1262825) Amalgamation

Kogarah Council should **NOT** be amalgamated with any other Council. It is a well run Council and the majority of ratepayers are happy with the way the Council is operated (except regarding their inability to take a firm stand against high rise development - where they fail miserably).

Why Government would want Councils to amalgamate is beyond anyone's understanding. Surely Kogarah Council is a prime example of a Council being **SMALL and WELL RUN** and not needing to amalgamate. I have had experience with amalgamations within the Education sector some years back, and everyone was told that the forced amalgamations then would result in cost savings and better run institutions. This never happened, and really, our education system has suffered accordingly. Amalgamation only achieves less jobs, less control, less scrutiny and lower standards of service.

If amalgamation is such a good idea, the Government should provide successful examples of such amalgamations for all to observe. I don't think there are any such examples.

**BIGGER IS NOT BETTER - NO AMALGAMATION OF KOGARAH COUNCIL.**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



**Nicole Rogan**

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**From:** Amanda Salls [amanda.salls@sydney.edu.au]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 28 May 2015 1:21 PM  
**To:** KCC FitFortheFuture  
**Cc:** Amanda; Rebecca Dalton  
**Subject:** (DWS Doc No 1262826) Community Feedback on Fit for the Future

Dear Cr Michael Platt and Kogarah Council,

As a resident of Kogarah, I am writing in response to your April 2015 brochure on 'the Future of the City of Kogarah', and to state my FULL SUPPORT for your option number 1, with Kogarah City Council as a stand-alone.

The Kogarah City Council and residents have worked hard and efficiently to meet targets on sustainability, infrastructure and service management and efficiency, and it is unfair that Kogarah should be rolled in with other councils that have not been as visionary in hitting these benchmarks. While the Local Government Review Panel would prefer larger population sizes in council units, Kogarah will surely meet those population targets in the coming decade, with the re-zoning of land to higher density housing and the number of apartment building that are going up in this area.

I do agree with you that your Option 1 is the best option, in that this option meets the most number of benchmarks of all other options, now and in 2023. You have my full support in this.

Sincerely and with thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

CRICOS 00026A

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**Nicole Rogan**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 29 May 2015 3:28 PM  
**To:** KCC FitFortheFuture  
**Subject:** (DWS Doc No 1262827) Fit for the Future - resident feedback

I am in favour of option 1, that Kogarah Council remain as a stand alone council not only because I want to retain the 'Kogarah' identity but also because of the demonstrated track record of effective management of its funds, assets, infrastructure and services.

I fear however, that despite the Council's own expressed resolve to remain stand alone, and any genuine community support for this option articulated through this consultation phase, that amalgamation is the intended rather than proposed outcome of the NSW Government's Fit for the Future program.

A major negative around amalgamation for Kogarah is that it would inherit two of the most notorious Councils in Sydney when it comes to corruption, mismanagement and conflicts of interest! It would be hoped that the Fit for the Future reforms extend to a major overhaul of transparency and other controls to prevent what's occurred in these two areas.

If amalgamation is to proceed, is it possible that it be progressive? First Option 2, followed by 3 then 4...allowing time to implement the rigour and effective controls Kogarah has in place today as the region expands.

Thanks for the opportunity to provide feedback. I hope that Council's response against the criteria will demonstrate that standing alone is the right outcome and that Kogarah continues to retain the community identity it has today.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

## Nicole Rogan

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**From:** ~~janet.adams-janet.adams@bigpond.com~~  
**Sent:** Friday, 29 May 2015 4:26 PM  
**To:** KCC FitFortheFuture  
**Subject:** (DWS Doc No 1262828) Fit For The Future

Option 1 Kogarah Council	1 <sup>st</sup> choice
2 Plus Hurstville	2 <sup>nd</sup>
3 Plus Rockdale	3 <sup>rd</sup>
4 Plus Canterbury	4 <sup>th</sup>

Making a problem bigger is unlikely to fix it.

I think the State Government is merely passing the problem on to Local Councils.



**Nicole Rogan**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, 30 May 2015 8:42 PM  
**To:** KCC FitFortheFuture  
**Subject:** re: Fit fot the future

dear the government,

we like to rate in 1 in the option 1; 2 in the option 3; 3 in option 2; 4 in option 4.

thanks

[REDACTED]

## Nicole Rogan

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**From:** [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 2 June 2015 3:38 PM  
**To:** KCC FitFortheFuture  
**Subject:** 'Fit for the Future' feedback

Dear Kogarah Council,

I would like to voice my opinion on Council's stance concerning the 'Fit for the Future' NSW Government initiative.

My wife and I are, and have been, ratepayers within Kogarah LGA for 16 years. Prior to that we have lived within the LGA boundaries of Hurstville and Randwick.

We have reviewed council's summary of the 'independent' analysis performed on the council's behalf, as well as the information supplied by the OLGA. Today, we received a notice from West Ward Councillors Aroney, Katsabaris, & Petroni. Within this mailout, the Crs have stated that amalgamation will be less favourable to us than remaining alone.

We are of the opinion that the West Ward Cr's recommendation is not in line with our opinion, as it is clearly biased towards rejecting any options of amalgamation. Further, any 'independent' reviews, including the terms of reference for such reviews should be placed into the rate-payers' hands for consideration. Providing a summary of council's recommendations is noteworthy, but not in keeping with the trust that should be placed in the ratepayers of Kogarah.

We are also of the opinion that some of the pros and cons displayed in the information brochure are based on short-term economic goals, and the over-use of the term "loss of 'Kogarah' identity" is emotive at best. For example, we have to travel through the Hurstville CBD to even get to Kogarah Town Square.

As residents and rate payers, we believe that:

- 1). We are over-governed
- 2). We live and work in the broader community, and not just within the Kogarah LGA
- 3). Any decisions relating to the change in council function and representation should be long term in nature (15-100 years)

Only as a larger and broader community can we have a greater benefit for all. Together with the NSW State Govt carrot (\$) we would be willing to pay higher rates in the short term for long term gain. In addition, a higher population per LGA will allow economies of scale in the services rendered by council. Staying solo, while other councils merge and receive the benefits accordingly, is a risk too high to consider.

Concerning the arguments for the poor asset management, and high infrastructure liabilities of adjoining LGAs, we are tired of funding a continuous cycle of Kogarah CBD upgrades when we have been waiting 10 years to have Denison St, Penshurst re-surfaced. It could be argued that amalgamation would not be better in this regard, but under any consideration, it could not possibly be worse.

In conclusion, and without having access to the 'independent' review funded by the people of Kogarah LGA, including the terms of reference set out by council, we reject council's decision to put forward a non-amalgamation stance before us, as a fait accompli, to the State Government.

Please find enclosed a response to your request for a survey of options presented:

# Survey

Please rate the following options – with one (1) being your preferred option and four (4) being your least preferred option.

- 4 Option 1: Kogarah City Council
- 3 Option 2: Kogarah and Hurstville Council amalgamation
- 1 Option 3: Kogarah, Hurstville and Rockdale Council amalgamation
- 2 Option 4: Kogarah, Hurstville, Rockdale and Canterbury amalgamation

Regards

[Redacted signature]  
[Redacted name]  
[Redacted contact information]



Nicole Rogan

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From: Doug Walker <dwalkers57@hotmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, 2 June 2015 6:34 PM  
To: KCC FitFortheFuture  
Subject: Fit for the Future

Could you please advise me where I can find the 'online' survey form referred to in the brochure?

Could you also tell me who completed the 'independent analysis' referred to in the brochure?

On face value Kogarah Council has taken a very narrow view of the initiative and needs to work constructively towards finding a solution before one is imposed on you.

Surely amalgamation with Kogarah &/or Rockdale must provide benefits as clearly we will need less representation. Modelling seems to assume we will not reduce overall expenses (number of councillors / staff) which is not in the spirit of what amalgamation is intended to achieve.

Doug Walker

Resident of Henshurst

0417 656483

Sent from Windows Mail

Nicole Rogan

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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, 2 June 2015 7:07 PM  
To: KCC FitFortheFuture  
Subject: NO TO AMALGAMATION

To whom it may concern

I would like to register my displeasure at the current proposal regarding the amalgamation of Kogarah, Hurstville, Canterbury and Rockdale Councils.

As a long time rate payer, I feel this amalgamation will consistently drive up rates to an unacceptable level, eventually forcing households into hardship, particularly the elderly.

With a mega council and fewer councillors it will become harder for the incumbent councillors to govern the entire council successfully.

Therefore I am voting **NO** for the amalgamation of the councils

Yours Sincerely

## Nicole Rogan

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 2 June 2015 10:46 PM  
**To:** KCC FitFortheFuture  
**Subject:** Proposed Merger of Canterbury, Rockdale and Hurstville Councils with Kogarah Council

Dear Committee

Thank you for your letter of 29 May 2015 sent to our address at [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED].

We are strongly opposed to the above merger as Kogarah Council is a well-run Council that has executed its responsibilities and services to its constituents in a sound manner. It is also financially stable and is cautious about developments being within the appropriate guidelines as well as environmentally sustainable.

Any proposed merger would result in a situation where the gains and revenue that have been built up by Kogarah Council would be used to 'prop up' the other Councils.

It is very clear from recent press reports, that Hurstville Council is in disarray with the standing down of their General Manager and the alleged misconduct of the Mayor. Further, the extent and quality of the developments that have occurred in Hurstville Council are cause for great concern. Similarly, Rockdale Council has not been free of scandal with incidents in the past resulting in litigation.

We were unable to complete the survey on the Fit For the Future site but our response would be:

- 1) Kogarah Council
- 2) Canterbury Council
- 3) Rockdale Council
- 4) Hurstville Council

Thank you  
[REDACTED]



**Nicole Rogan**

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**From:** Gary Evans <Gary.Evans@SESIAHS.HEALTH.NSW.GOV.AU>  
**Sent:** Friday, 5 June 2015 12:48 PM  
**To:** KCC FitFortheFuture  
**Subject:** Merger

I have completed the survey and as indicated in it am strongly against any merger with debt ridden, backlogged and under represented other councils.

I am particularly concerned at the possible rate increases if the merger is supposed to deliver saving

Also given recent publicity I am equally concerned about merging with Rockdale & Hurstville councils given the claims of impropriety

My only other concern is why are we directing these letters via the council – I would have thought involving local members would have been a priority

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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## Nicole Rogan

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**From:** Desiree Purnell <desiree9559@optusnet.com.au>  
**Sent:** Saturday, 13 June 2015 9:16 AM  
**To:** KCC FitFortheFuture  
**Cc:** Lachlan Mclean  
**Subject:** councils merging

This idea of councils merging is RIDICULOUS! Kogarah has different issues to the other councils you propose to merge with ie, Rockdale, Hurstville and for some other stupid idea Canterbury.

Kogarah council needs to concentrate on Kogarah and they cant do that properly or without thinking of their profits. More units in this area when you cant park in Kogarah already, the train and bus service is disgusting, dirty and unreliable. Kogarah cant cope with the people that are here already let alone adding more people or councils who know nothing about Kogarah, its history, its people.

Kogarahs lifestyle was always one oh houses, parks, schools safe streets and now we turning our area into another Asian communities. You are forcing Kogarah and the people of Kogarah, many whom are elderly and have lived here all their lives to live the way Asians do in their country. I was born and have lived in Kogarah for 46 years and Im disgusted and very disappointed at what Kogarah now is.

I have seen Asian ladies squatting on Railway Pde, near the old bus stop in front of the chemist with her grandchild, pull the childs pants down so they can pee in the gutters. The drug addicts you built a clinic for right near schools, primary and high schools as well as tafe, hang around Kogarah, the clinic. WHY would you invite those people to this beautiful area in the first place???

The needlevending machine and needle disposal bin at st George hospital in Kengsinton street, what the hell??

What is wrong with you? I work hard, have epilepsy, pay my bills, rates, raised 2 children and now have a grandson and you have turned my beautiful much loved and I was always very proud of where I came from, into filth and allow it to be treated like filth by these people and now you want us to sit back and let our lifestyle change to suit them??????

I live near calvary hospital and cant park in front of my house 5 days a week. We have 4 cars so we don't all fit in the driveway. And you are turning Darrell Lea into more units??

Wake up councillors merging council, taking on other people's problems when you cant even get it for Kogarah alone, just shows how incompetent you all really are.

This isn't Australia anymore, you are just pleasing the masses and the masses are Asian and they hand out all your flyers at local election time, so we know who take bribes from.

Its all fact in black and yellow when you walk on the streets, so you cant sit there and call me racist and if your small minds want to then so be it.

What a joke Kogarah has become. Very sad, very disappointing, very un Australian, very over crowded, very pathetic of council.

Thanks

## Nicole Rogan

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**From:** Bianca Wyatt <Bianca.Wyatt@cube.com.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, 15 June 2015 1:23 PM  
**To:** KCC FitFortheFuture  
**Cc:** B  
**Subject:** Various Merger Options

Hi,

Pl's see below my thoughts regarding a recent letter distributed 3/6/15.

I am a citizen in the Kogarah Area (my council) & have received the letter regarding amalgamation of Kogarah. I don't believe as a citizen of the area I should have to pay for someone else's expense/Increase in Rates if the other 3 Surrounding suburbs (Hurstville, Rockdale & Canterbury)merge with Kogarah Council.

Rates have been increasing every year plus other high expenses that come with the territory the increase would affect not only me but my supporting neighbours.

What do us locals get out of the Councils merging & costing us more?

~~Bianca Wyatt | Transport OPS Assistant~~

~~Cube Logistics | NSW~~



[Redacted text block]

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dwaF7AF

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, 2 June 2015 3:34:51 PM  
To: Kogarah Council Mail  
Subject: Amalgamations

Received letter from West ward Councillors today. Have reviewed the abstract on Councils web page - Option 1 is a 'no brainer' and to do otherwise would be irresponsible and a gross betrayal of our valued residents.

If there is future benefit in creating larger councils, there needs to be a transition sufficient to allow delinquent councils to raise their performance to the standard of the best performing council in the equation. During the transitional phase government intervention can be directed towards delinquent councils, including the appointment of Administrators to take over management and replace Councillors/Management staff unable to achieve the required efficiencies.

Ratepayers/residents of Kogarah should not be expected to bear the burden of additional costs and the prospect of diminished services, so as to benefit local government areas experiencing lower performance standards.

If recent published reports regarding the conduct of Hurstville Council, and well documented past performances of Rockdale Council are a measure of civic representation under amalgamation, Kogarah residents deserve better.

Amalgamations will only result in distancing residents from decision making - an outcome which is counter productive to the notion of local government.

Please make strong representations to either keep Kogarah as it is, Option 1, or seek some form of transition arrangements to safeguard the interests of our residents within an amalgamated structure.

Regards  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

dwaABC

From: Margaret Hamilton [mhamilton@bigpond.com]  
Sent: Tuesday, 2 June 2015 3:19:01 PM  
To: Kogarah Council Mail  
Subject: AMALGAMATION WITH OTHER COUNCILS

As a rate payer in the Kogarah council I am writing to object to the proposed amalgamation with other councils

Thank you

Margaret Hamilton

**From:** CHRISTY Wayne [Wayne.Christy@kone.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 4 June 2015 1:47:26 PM  
**To:** Kogarah Council Mail  
**Subject:** Amalgamation

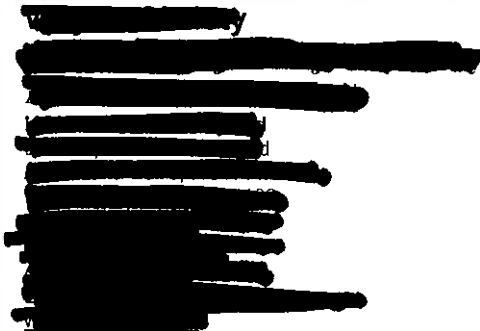
Attn: Kathryn Landsberry; Nick Varvaris; Nathaniel Smith


I am in receipt of Middle Ward Councillors communication dated 29 May 2015 regarding proposal by NSW Government to amalgamate several local councils here into one.

I am in favour of any proposal that improves the level of performance above that we receive from Kogarah Council today. Unfortunately the proposal is to amalgamate with 3x other council who are just as pathetic as the one we have. Rather than wasting our hard earn taxes on these types of communication I'd rather see you actual travel around and look at the disgraceful state of the roads in our area. Under your guidance we have a huge increase in residential building (units) and absolutely no infrastructure to support it. Where are the new big council car parks? Where are the improved traffic flow arrangements? Where are the rules ensuring developer provide adequate off street parking, you do realise that most families have 2x cars?

I suggest that you first demonstrate to all us rate payers how you are going to fix up our roads full of potholes & improve infrastructure before you ask us to save your position.





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Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 4 June 2015 5:31:39 PM  
**To:** Kogarah Council Mail  
**Subject:** N.S.W. State Government proposal fo Amalgamate Councils

*To whom this email may concern*

After receiving a letter from the West Ward Councillors about the N.S.W. proposal to attempt to amalgamate the surrounding Councils, it prompted me into sending this email to you to voice my strong objection to the amalgamation of any of the Councils suggested by the N.S.W. State Government. My understanding they are : Canterbury, Rockdale and Hurstville and Kogarah.

From my reading of the papers, I am not impressed with Rockdale and Hurstville Councils from an ethical point. At Rockdale, if certain Councillors did not agree to a motion, they wouldn't attend a meeting, delaying what a certain section of the community considered to be important. Hurstville's dilemma has not only made the local paper, but major stories in the Sydney ones., Should either one of these situations occur if amalgamated, I could see Kogarah's small proportion of representation would count for nothing on any controversial topic.

My understanding is that we, Kogarah City Council, is free of debt. That being true, having a smaller Municipality to manage makes it easier to control finances. With an extended Council, we would have to wear any controversial financial decision that may not remotely involve our present Municipality.

[REDACTED] I dealt extensively with Council and staff, mainly getting approval to build the Town Clock and keeping staff informed as to the progress of it. We worked in harmony throughout. If the same situation would arise in the future, I could not image a Council without the interest of a remote suburb giving the same co operation and enthusiasm that was shown to me in 1983.

I have not been impressed by Hurstville Council's attitude to the removal of public halls, being for example, Mortdale Masonic and Oatley Bowling Club.

Should the N.S.W. State Government insist on amalgamation, before further action be taken, have a referendum on the amalgamation to the residents. If the N.S.W. State Government did not agree to this proposition, it would only entrench our way of thinking that the Government is not running the State democratically, but as a dictatorship.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

KOSARAN city council

ATTN - EAST WARD COUNCILLORS

SUBJECT - COUNCIL LETTER 29 MAY 2015

DEAR COUNCILLORS,

I HAVE RECEIVED AND  
READ THE 'FIT FOR FUTURE' BROCHURE, AND  
MY FAMILY AND I ARE TOTALLY OPPOSED TO ANY  
AMALGAMATION WITH OTHER COUNCILS.

I WISH MY COUNCIL REMAIN  
AS IT IS. WE ARE DEBT FREE AND  
EFFICIENTLY RUN. I DO NOT WANT TO BECOME  
A RESIDENT UNDER A SUPER COUNCIL. SERVICES  
WILL SUFFER, COSTS WILL RISE, OUR  
INDEPENDENCE OFFERS VS PROMPT SERVICES  
AND SECURITY.

PLEASE OPPOSE ANY AMALGAMATION.

THANK YOU.

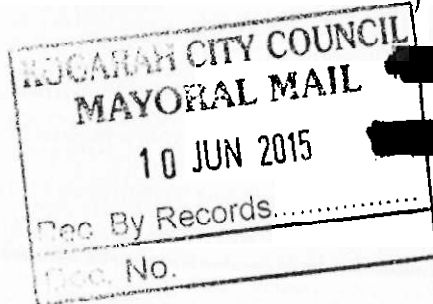
Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

12/6/15.

I wish to express my  
concerns regarding the amalgamation  
with Hurstville at any other  
Council. I believe we have  
the best in Kogarah and have  
done so far over most years.  
Why alter that which is  
working well and for the good  
of people. God bless

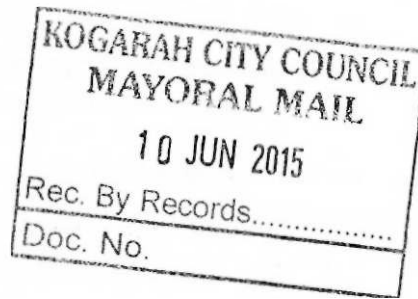
Regards.



with apologies for words.







8-06-2015

Mayor of City Kogarah NSW  
Mr. Michael Platt

cc. Mrs Annie Tang  
cc. Mr. Sam Stratikopoulos.

Dear Mr M. Platt

Thank you for your letter dated (.. No date.....) regarding what you call it "amalgamation" with other surrounding Government regions. Hm..... You can only imagine the saving State Government will made have one Local Government in region of 3 or 4. Ten of Hundreds of millions of dollars a year saving money... Good or bad Mr. M Plat., good or bad...for country as all?

Your office Mr M.Platt in your letter to our Community been telling us about negative impact of any such amalgamation will bring to us –The Community .?

**What about your decision related to rezoning to our suburbs.??..Good or Bad !**

The Community suggest you and your stuff (the team of Councillors ) to concentrate first on bad plan known as " future better life" which have nothing to do with better life at all...as" New City Plan" which will create only "Ghetto's "in our areas. You and your team (all Councillors) should condemn that kind of " New City Plan ". Concentrate first on what you have and problems you have at this moment to look after our Community but not brining new problems to your Community you represent , as "Your New City Plan". Build first necessary facilities, infrastructure, solve problems of traffics, build underground or over head walkways on intersections for pedestrians, build more schools or class rooms, Hospitals ( new addition to Public hosp, finish recently do not accommodate amount of people required treatments or hospitalising.)and free parking , all is a big subjects you just forgot a bout it and your Councillors .

Your New City Plan is **PREMATURE** and you ( Councillors) should concentrate first on improvements of our City but Not declaring what is at this stage disaster as your Plan for New City with full respect to all of you. What is wrong with you people, **that you do not understand future planing for your own town..?!** ( I am 62 years old man has been working for15 years in Europe in Architectural and Coristruction sector and 30 years in Civil Engineering sector in Australia, have my own business for last 25 years in Australia) Australia is very special place on this earth. Our living is very special and you **should remember** that. Please do not create "Ghetto's" from this Country.

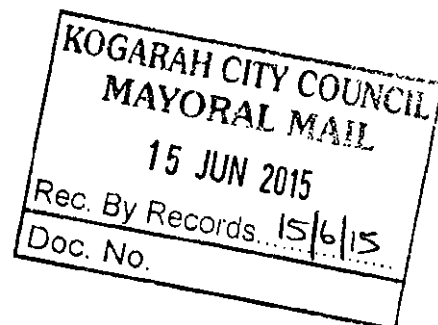
At the meeting in Kogarah Art school,250 community (+.- ) with out of your presents and representation of any kind ,community was furious.. There was suggestion to replace the whole Kogarah Councillors in nearly by future elections by vote them out if Councillors,( working for us ),will Ignore decision of Community related to unjustified rezoning by Kogarah Council to place's community have good life at this stage. You Councillors should protect our community and not to ignore that facts or be against our Community.

Your Sincerely   


[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

12 June 2015

Mayor Michael Platt, Cr Annie Tang & Cr Stratikopoulos  
Kogarah City Council  
Locked Bag 8  
KOGARAH NSW 2217



Dear Mayor Platt & East Ward Councillors,

**Re:- "Fit for the Future" Local Government Reform Program**

We write to you all to voice our objection to the proposed amalgamation of Kogarah City Council with other councils such as Canterbury (can't for the life of us understand why this council was chosen), Rockdale (which not so long ago had such bad press re:- corruption) & finally Hurstville (which has just been put under administration for some highly questionable dealings).

Kogarah City Council has been "in-the-black" financially for some years now and it would be nearly criminal to see this change to bail out some of these other unstable, useless & dodgy councils. Residents/rate payers here would be sacrificed. Although one thing we must say after residing in East Ward for some thirty six years now is that we have seen this ward become the "Cash Cow" for North, Middle & West Wards through over-development we have had to endure here and for rate money collected from this. We have observed how this money flows into works for the upkeep of these wards while East Ward has suffered terrible neglect. As a result of this residents here are most annoyed & angry. However, strangely enough only this past week have we seen some maintenance work done on the footpaths in our street (Barsby's Avenue) - the very first time since we moved here in 1979. *(Still it was much appreciated).*

In conclusion we must state that we are firmly against any form of council merger.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Koparah City Council.  
Locked box.

Koparah. NSW. 2214.

9-6-15

Sam  
9:24

RE: Proposed Councils  
Amalgamation.

TO ALL 3 NORTH WARD Councillors.

Thank you for your letter dated  
30 JUNE 2015, received only on the 9th  
June 2015 (Today)

I am **TOTALLY AGAINST ANY**  
**AMALGAMATION** with any other Council.

Koparah Council is **DEBT FREE** & all  
these other Councils seem to have  
money problems - We don't want to  
inherit theirs. No wonder they want  
us.

So **END of STORY:**

**NO AMALGAMATION -**  
**Koparah Council continues ALONE!**

Regards



dwa8395

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, 29 May 2015 3:28:18 PM  
To: KCC FitFortheFuture  
Subject: Fit for the Future - resident feedback

I am in favour of option 1, that Kogarah Council remain as a stand alone council not only because I want to retain the 'Kogarah' identity but also because of the demonstrated track record of effective management of its funds, assets, infrastructure and services.

I fear however, that despite the Council's own expressed resolve to remain stand alone, and any genuine community support for this option articulated through this consultation phase, that amalgamation is the intended rather than proposed outcome of the NSW Government's Fit for the Future program.

A major negative around amalgamation for Kogarah is that it would inherit two of the most notorious Councils in Sydney when it comes to corruption, mismanagement and conflicts of interest! It would be hoped that the Fit for the Future reforms extend to a major overhaul of transparency and other controls to prevent what's occurred in these two areas.

If amalgamation is to proceed, is it possible that it be progressive? First Option 2, followed by 3 then 4...allowing time to implement the rigour and effective controls Kogarah has in place today as the region expands.

Thanks for the opportunity to provide feedback. I hope that Council's response against the criteria will demonstrate that standing alone is the right outcome and that Kogarah continues to retain the community identity it has today.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
8<sup>th</sup> June 2015

West Ward Councillors

Dear Sirs and Madam,

I write in response to your letter of the 29<sup>th</sup> of May and wish to confirm that I share your concerns regarding the proposed amalgamations.

I understand the apparent attraction of the concept to governments insofar as there would theoretically be economic benefits of scale to be obtained. However experience has shown that bigger is not necessarily best. E.g The merging of the banks into the big four banks and the abuse of the power of their monopolistic position.

One of the issues you raise is the likely increase in rates, this is not my major concern however. What really concerns me is the history of the performance of the surrounding councils. Hurstville Council has severe problems which, in my opinion, will only begin to be resolved by the appointment of an administrator and Rockdale and Canterbury Councils have a well-earned reputation with regard to maladministration which cannot be said to be confidence inspiring. I am not trying to say that I believe that Kogarah Council is and has never been 'without sin', it is however head and shoulders above the councils with whom it is proposed to amalgamate. This is not to say that there cannot be sensible cooperation, a practical demonstration of that being the current arrangement with regard to waste collection.

The NSW Government through IPART will, I am sure, continue to prosecute this matter blissfully unaware in their insulated economic ivory tower that the apparent attraction of theoretical savings is outweighed by the realistic increased opportunity for corruption and maladministration.

It is for the above reasons that I am implacably opposed to the proposed council amalgamations which would in my opinion be an unmitigated disaster for Kogarah Council and the ratepayers.

[REDACTED]

[illegible]

Crs Nick Aroney, George Katsabaris, Jacinta Petroni  
Locked Bag 8  
Kogarah  
NSW 2217

## Your Letter of 29 May Re Council Amalgamation

We are opposed to any amalgamation as currently proposed by the State Government under the "Fit for the Future" program. Fit for whose future? Who wrote the criteria in that document? Were Councillors and in particular residents who will be most directly affected advised or consulted? The various business management aspects of it are, in our view, mostly political spin. Nowhere in it can we find anything that is a tangible benefit to Kogarah ratepayers and residents.

Despite our despair at the increasing number of cement rendered "mausoleum macmansions" in this area, there remains an essential character based on parks, gardens and riverside areas in Kogarah. That is worth retaining. There would have to be diminished confidence that amalgamation would result in a similar interest in this. Apart from the obvious issue of extraordinary upward changes in rates, recent alleged activities attributed to Rockdale and Hurstville representatives in particular would not be in our best interests should similar representation emerge in an amalgamated Council.

Yours faithfully,

Cc : Mark Coure MLA



[redacted]  
[redacted]  
3rd June 2015.

The Middle Ward Councillors.

Dear Councillors

Replying to your letter, as  
a long time resident of Haggarah City Council  
I definitely oppose any amalgamation of  
the 3 Councils mentioned. Big is not always  
better.

I have always been happy  
with Haggarah Council services. The  
combination of 3 Councils would be  
a disadvantage to all residents.

Yours Sincerely,  
[redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

**Nicole Rogan**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 15 June 2015 5:46 PM  
**To:** KCC FitFortheFuture  
**Subject:** "Fit for the Future"

Dear Councilors,

I am writing to express my support for Option 1 – Kogarah City Council to 'stand-alone'.

Should amalgamation be unavoidable under the NSW Government seven Benchmarks, my leaning is to amalgamate with Rockdale Council as there is a more 'St. George' identity. However, past history of Rockdale Council does not instill trust. Therefore, Option 1.

In respect to Population Size Benchmark and the "New City Plan". I can't agree with the concepts for the Princess Highway corridor.

I still believe we should have a Town Hall Public Meeting regarding the "New City Plan".

Streets become Carparks with the more than one car families, together with their visitors. Just like the recent low rise development on the corner of Princes Highway and Francis Street. The access and exit to the Carpark is on Francis Street. Since completion it has increased the traffic flow in Francis Street and Colvin Avenue for the residents to reach Jubilee Avenue and Park Road which allow them to travel east or south. These new residents use the back streets to avoid the current bottlenecks along the Princes Highway. Multiple that by dozens of 7 or 8 storey developments along the Princes Highway will require traffic lights in our narrow suburban back streets.

The Highway plan is not revitalising a corridor. These high rise ghettos will cast shadows on adjoining residential homes. Residents will drive their motor vehicle to the Train Stations because of the walking distance. This stretch of Highway is a 70 kilometre speed zone. Increasing the number of vehicles slowly entering / exiting Apartment building driveways and turning into the next narrow side streets for their destination, will increase the danger of accidents and injury, together with interfering with the Highway traffic flow.

I don't disagree with similar developments along Railway Parade where Public Transport is easily obtainable. Although the current train scheduled stops are limited for Allawah, Carlton and Kogarah.

I presume Kogarah Council has allowed for increased Car Parking facilities at Shopping Centres and Railways, more Parks and Sporting Fields, conducted a Local Environmental Plan, larger Hospitals, Aged Care Services and Schools, enlarging Sewerage and Storm Water – less grassed lots will mean increased rain run-off.

I still believe in Option1, but a Town Hall Public Meeting would allow open discussion on both "Fit for the Future" and "New City Plan".

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

\*\*\*\*\*  
This e-mail transmission and any attachments that accompany it may contain information that is privileged, confidential or otherwise exempt from disclosure under applicable law and is intended solely for

**Nicole Rogan**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 16 June 2015 11:30 AM  
**To:** Kogarah Council Mail; KCC FitFortheFuture  
**Subject:** Council Amalgamation

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I would like to express my objection to the amalgamation of Kogarah Council with any other surrounding council as part the state government's initiative.

Residents need to be acknowledged and represented fairly in any matters involving their residency in their local council. In an amalgamated council, the number of residents will be so large that we, the Kogarah Council ratepayers, will no longer be heard or our thoughts appreciated in any way as we will just become another ratepayer...one of the many, many thousands. That's just wrong!

I object wholeheartedly to any increase to rates as a side effect of amalgamation. I have a large family that lives and loves this area. We cannot afford substantial increases to our rates. Especially given the fact that we won't be receiving the same standard of service as we have been under the current system.

We need to put a stop to this initiative immediately to keep everyone in this council happy!

We applaud the works of the current councillors and council and wish to keep things the way they are.

More information needs to be given to residents in order for them to be able to understand all the ramifications of amalgamation and express their opinions in this regard.

Yours faithfully



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 15 June 2015 1:21:55 PM  
**To:** Kogarah Council Mail  
**Subject:** Middle Ward Councillors

Attention: Nickolas Varvaris, Kathryn Landsberry and Nathaniel Smith

Thank you for your letter of 29th May 2015.

I have been a resident at my current address for 32 years and can't recall having met a Councillor. I have, in general, received excellent service from the staff of Kogarah Council and would commend them on that.

I am highly concerned about the proposed high rise development in the area and this does not seem to be an issue for the current Councillors. All the infrastructure will remain the same ie. sewer, water, road, rail etc - only the number of people accessing them will increase dramatically. I have an understanding that if there is high rise within an easy walk to a train station. However, putting highrise along the Princes Highway heading down to Blakehurst will change the very nature of the area and create more problems than they will solve. There is a feeling amongst residents that I talk with these proposed developments is to help out the developers and perhaps save the jobs of both Councillors and Council staff.

There has been an ongoing problem with the canal that runs, in part, from The Princess Highway - down to Carlton Crescent and then out into Kogarah Bay. I understand that this may be a Water Board Issue but little has been done despite numerous notifications. The odour that is coming from the canal is appalling - and there is a disgusting sludge along the base of the canal that I think is responsible. I understand from others that the Council has been contacted for help (I have directed my communications to the Water Board) - but still the problem exists. If you add highrise to the surrounding area - I can only imagine things like this will become even more of an issue.

I am not sure what I think about amalgamation - one one hand - it appears to make some sense - but after recent revelations about a certain Carss Park resident/ Hurstville Councillor - I am not convinced either way. I certainly do not think Canterbury should have even been considered in the suggestions.

Regards,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

~~\_\_\_\_\_~~  
~~\_\_\_\_\_~~  
~~\_\_\_\_\_~~  
Kogarah Council,

I am against the amalgamation of Kogarah Council with other councils especially Rockdale & Hurstville who have their problems & have not performed well.

1. Bigger councils have shown that bigger is not the best. I remember at George electricity was made to merge & immediately prices went up. Prices & rates will go up with amalgamation.
2. Kogarah Council has looked after its infrastructure such as buildings, roads, parks, & got an award for council recycling water.
3. Kogarah Council has been able to work with not putting up rates as high as Hurstville & Rockdale & manages its finances well.
4. Can government prove it has done a realistic survey that bigger is better. If so I have not seen it.
5. Asset management & financial management have been proven by the council.
6. Who looks after our local area better than our local council.
7. I have found the people I have dealt with at council have been polite & helpful.
8. Kogarah Council is debt free & we don't want to take on the debts of other councils which would definitely put up our rates.

Sincerely  
~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 16 June 2015 9:26:13 AM  
**To:** Kogarah Council Mail  
**Subject:** Letter 29 May 2015 Fit for the Future

Dear Sir or Madam

I am a resident at [redacted] 15 Mountbatten Street, Oatley. I received your letter regarding the reform program 'Fit for the Future'. Paragraph 5 states 'A major impact would be rate increases ranging from \$146 to \$386 per annum.'

Please explain the basis for this statement and how these rate increases would be derived, specifically related to the FFF reform.

Kind regards

[redacted]



dwaDDFB

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, 16 June 2015 11:30:27 AM  
To: Kogarah Council Mail; KCC FitFortheFuture  
Subject: Council Amalgamation

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I would like to express my objection to the amalgamation of Kogarah Council with any other surrounding council as part the state government's initiative.

Residents need to be acknowledged and represented fairly in any matters involving their residency in their local council. In an amalgamated council, the number of residents will be so large that we, the Kogarah Council ratepayers, will no longer be heard or our thoughts appreciated in any way as we will just become another ratepayer...one of the many, many thousands. That's just wrong!

I object wholeheartedly to any increase to rates as a side effect of amalgamation. I have a large family that lives and loves this area. We cannot afford substantial increases to our rates. Especially given the fact that we won't be receiving the same standard of service as we have been under the current system.

We need to put a stop to this initiative immediately to keep everyone in this council happy!

We applaud the works of the current councillors and council and wish to keep things the way they are.

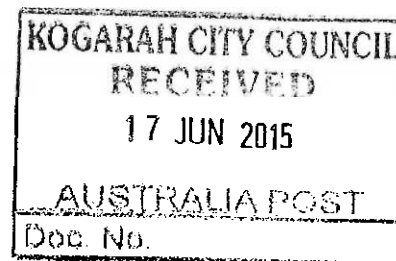
More information needs to be given to residents in order for them to be able to understand all the ramifications of amalgamation and express their opinions in this regard.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
10<sup>th</sup> June 2015

The General Manager  
Kogarah City Council  
Locked Bag 8  
KOGARAH NSW 2217  
27<sup>th</sup> May 2015



Re: Opposition to Proposed Council Amalgamation.  
Expression of Support for Kogarah City Council's decision to stand alone and not to be forced into amalgamation with adjoining councils.

We wish to add our voices to the already strong opposition by the residents of Kogarah City Council to the Council amalgamations proposed by the NSW State Government and badged as 'Fit for the Future' on the following grounds:

- strong community opposition
- loss of political governance and local representation (access to local representatives living locally and with community interest at the forefront)
- impacts on existing 'communities of interest' particularly with respect to a loss of identity and place within a huge new conglomerate
- loss of local accountability and ability to respond in a timely and appropriate way to local needs
- decisions would be more remote diluted by political affiliations and voting blocs that advantage councillors, friends relatives, contacts, lobbyists and other vested interests, subject to corrupt practices, lack of transparency and lack of accountability (eg Hurstville Council)
- the need for a local Council to reflect local values and prioritise local issues
- corporate governance impacts including significant organisational upheaval
- the diminution of existing services (aged, disability, child care, OOSH, library etc)
- preservation of history and communities of interest and identity
- neighbourhood cohesion, shared experiences and shared places
- debt free and efficient governance
- proven record of innovation and financial management
- sound existing infrastructure
- a significant funding gap that would need to be addressed in order to meet asset maintenance, asset renewal and infrastructure backlog ratios resulting in
- a disproportionate burden on existing Kogarah ratepayers and unnecessary rate increases
- national and international recognition for sustainable practices that are not shared by adjoining Councils as evidenced by current actions and priorities that would ultimately give way to excessive development, the diminution of the existing gardens, parkland, tree and foreshore protection, in favour of concrete glass and parking lots, equating to gains for individuals and losses for the community as a whole

We wish to convey to Council however our disappointment and concerns about process, that is, although Kogarah Council has stated that different modes of communication were put in place in order to engage with community and to canvass opinion regarding the proposed State Government Council push for Council amalgamations, these supposed efforts have not resulted in informed Kogarah residents who remain largely ignorant of what is envisaged by the amalgamation proposals or that amalgamations were even being considered.

As a result many residents across Kogarah City (the numerous local residents that we know and have spoken with) have not, including ourselves, been the recipient of any of these communications including the *Fit for the Future* document nor a copy of *Kogarah Life* either in the mail or, as in our case, by electronic subscription. Given the enormity of the community transformations involved therefore and the life changing and lifestyle effects of such proposals, Kogarah residents must *first* be informed and then have an opportunity to express their views prior to the June deadline.

We propose an urgent and new well-constructed and widely advertised online survey open to Kogarah ratepayers, with a rate notice number required in order to eliminate the possibility of fraudulent survey participants, and a survey that will more accurately represent community views. The Kogarah Council survey and its clone appended to *The Future of the City of Kogarah. What the NSW Government's 'Fit for the Future' Program means the City of Kogarah*, does not ask the simple question 'Are you in favour of amalgamation YES or NO?

There should be at least 4 additional options available to survey participants but ONLY if the subject has responded YES to amalgamation. Only three of the 4 possible YES options have been provided in the current survey as opposed to 4 possibles ie Rockdale only, Hurstville only, Rockdale and Hurstville, or Rockdale, Hurstville and Canterbury. There is no option to EXCLUDE Hurstville in the Kogarah survey which for most of the Kogarah community would be a top priority, as it is for Rockdale, where only 1% of the populace supported amalgamation with Hurstville. However yet this option has been omitted, one suspects deliberately, as the survey seems to have been designed specifically to obtain a certain outcome that is a *fait accompli*. In addition insufficient online space is available in which to comment or challenge the options provided.

Further the previous online survey linked to the Mayoral message contained in, *The Future of the City of Kogarah. What the NSW Government's 'Fit for the Future' Program means the City of Kogarah*, was de-activated early in the process and only reinstated following my call to 9330 9558. For those of us involved in designing surveys in our professional lives, the Kogarah Council survey is sadly somewhat of a joke, and especially when compared with those devised by other Sydney Councils. I refer you to proactive Councils such as Holroyd, Ryde, Randwick, Woollahra, Strathfield, Ku-ring-gai, Lane Cove, Mosman and Waverley, to name a few, who together with the Local Councils Association have not only devised a meaningful citizens' survey but have actively supported and advocated a NO amalgamation case based on community consensus. For example Woollahra Council has enlisted almost a dozen local luminaries from sport, business, entertainment and fashion to help it counter any pro-amalgamation push emanating from Randwick and Waverley Councils.

Moreover the economic argument for amalgamation has been debunked in the independent *Bigger is not Always Better* report prepared by Pittwater Council, which found no significant statistical

relationship between population size and expenditure for Manly, Pittwater and Warringah identified. The conclusion being that because scale economies are not present, the economic case for forced amalgamation in *Future Directions for NSW Local Government* is severely undermined. Further a University of New England paper (Dollery, B. & Crase, L) *Is Bigger Local Government Better? An evaluation of the Economic Case for Australian Municipal Amalgamation Programs* examined common arguments advanced for economies of scale, scope, capacity, administrative and compliance costs. It concluded that the economic benefits of local council amalgamations are historically unlikely to be significant, and that there was a paucity of evidence to suggest improvement in scope and capacity, nor was evidence of a relationship between size and economic efficiency. The report recommends therefore that small efficient municipalities be retained.

**The report concludes:**

Finally, the drastic nature of forced mergers should be recognized and non-economic factors given due consideration. Councils often represent the focal point of small communities and enhance people's 'sense of place' and identity with their towns and regions. Effective participatory democracy is facilitated through small councils where citizens feel that they can influence local outcomes. It captures the benefits of detailed local knowledge and thus improves the quality of decisions taken at the local level. It also involves people in their local communities and encourages socially beneficial behaviour, such as volunteering.

New South Wales electors could be forgiven therefore for assuming the whole *Fit for the Future* process is simply tick-a-box exercise, with the government firmly committed to diluting local democratic representation for purely ideological reasons.

The primacy of community and all it entails is essential to quality of life, as it is for robust and informed grass roots decision making. We therefore say NO to Council amalgamations and YES to Kogarah City remaining an independent Council entity.

Sincerely,





**Nicole Rogan**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 19 June 2015 4:39 PM  
**To:** KCC FitFortheFuture  
**Subject:** Save Kogarah Council from Amalgamation

Thank you for receiving my email. My husband and I do not think it is in the best interest of Kogarah Council residents to amalgamate with the other councils mentioned in the flyer you sent. For the reasons listed in the flyer.

- . rate increase
- . cost burden of other councils being in debt
- . Kogarah is debt free at present and has long term financial sustainability.
- . Kogarah has best practice
- . Sound financial management unlike Canterbury council's General Manager who cost the council \$500000.00 financial year for expenses.
- . Other councils will appropriate funds to achieve the same service level as Kogarah council.

We do not want Kogarah Council to amalgamate with the other Councils.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

dwaEF6D

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, 19 June 2015 1:47:21 PM  
To: Kogarah Council Mail  
CC: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]  
Subject: Amalgamation opposed

Reporting my opposition has been a major concern for months, but circumstances have delayed my writing to oppose council amalgamation.

While some Kogarah councillors leave much to be desired, an observer only has to look at the recent history of Rockdale councillors and the present huge problem of the Hurstville Mayor, and the almost blind backing of his party councillors.

But, while councillors come and go, my main opposition to amalgamation is the management of Hurstville council, and that of Rockdale council, as opposed to Kogarah council.

The considerable debt both councils have, also reflects on their management, particularly as they apparently have not tried to reduce the loans when for a considerable time they knew amalgamation was being considered by the state liberal party while in opposition and in Government.

It reflects on both council that they considered Kogarah council an easy target to foist part of their debt on getting gullible Kogarah council and Kogarah ratepayers!

The NSW state government should not be blindly inflicting Kogarah with poorly managed Hurstville and Rockdale councils BUT rewarding Kogarah council for a history of good management!

We oppose amalgamation.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ps.

We applaud our Middle Ward Councillors for their recent letter outlying oppositional.

Sent from my iPad