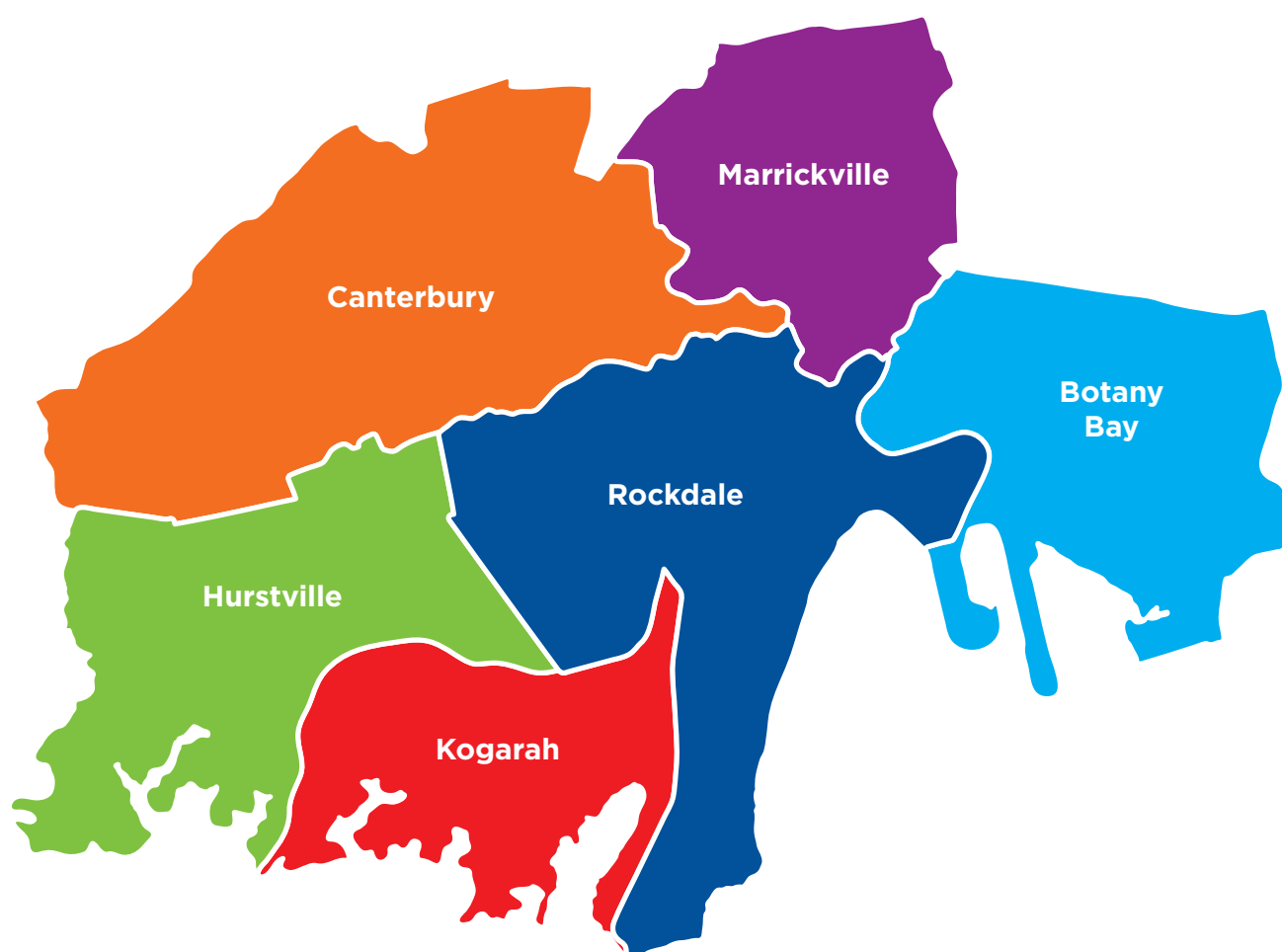


ROCKDALE CITY'S FUTURE



COMMUNITY SURVEY

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1 Background

This community engagement program was undertaken by Council to engage the residents, ratepayers and other interested members of the Rockdale community in discussion about the State Government's proposed amalgamation of the Rockdale City as part of its Fit for the Future initiative.

There were four key objectives to the Rockdale City's Future community engagement.

- 1** Inform the community about the State Government's Fit for the Future Initiatives and in particular the proposed amalgamation of New South Wales councils and direct those interest to appropriate and accurate channels of information;
- 2** Inform the community of Council's response;
- 3** Encourage discussion within the community about the proposed options for Rockdale City; and
- 4** Seek community opinion on the options Rockdale City.

The results were intended to inform Council's decision making and be incorporated into Council's Fit for the Future submission.

2 Methodology

The Rockdale City's Future Community Engagement Program was rolled out in several stages over an eight month period.

Council employed a variety of methods to periodically inform the community of the Fit for the Future Program and Council's progress. These included:

- ◆ Updates of the Fit for the Future section of Council's website;
- ◆ Articles in Council's regular newsletter (Rockdale Review) which is published as both an electronic version and hardcopy delivered to all households;
- ◆ Media releases;
- ◆ Facebook posts;
- ◆ Displays in Council's Administration building and all libraries; and
- ◆ Emails to people who signed up to remain informed and involved.

In addition, a series of five information booths, Council Hour, were established to provide an opportunity for community members to discuss the options for Rockdale with the Mayor and General Manager and have their questions answered. Council Hours were held over several weeks and in each Ward.

The range of initiatives outlined above were undertaken to inform and engage the community. Information about each can be found in Appendix A. The primary instrument for consultation was a brief survey, distributed to all households and businesses in the LGA, which residents could complete online or by hardcopy (contained in Appendix B). The survey was supported by an information brochure and online materials which aimed to explain the options for Rockdale City and enable people to make informed decisions. These can be found in Appendix C.

The following options were presented to the community for their consideration:

- ◆ Rockdale City Council Stand-alone (with an Improvement Program);
- ◆ Rockdale and Hurstville Councils merge;
- ◆ Rockdale and Kogarah Councils merge;
- ◆ Rockdale, Kogarah and Hurstville Councils merge (St George Council);
- ◆ Rockdale, Kogarah, Hurstville and Canterbury Councils merge (St George + Canterbury Council); and
- ◆ Rockdale, Marrickville and Botany Bay Councils merge (Bayside/Airport Council).

Respondents were asked to read the Rockdale City Information Brochure and then complete the brief survey. The survey asked respondents to identify which option was their first preference as well as their second. They were also asked why they made their choices and to indicate any concerns they have about the amalgamation of councils.

Responses to open ended questions were coded using industry standard methodology, grouping similar answers and ensuring that responses can be analysed in non-subjective manner. The coded responses are presented in this document in chart form and discussed in the body of the report. The complete list of responses to open end questions is appended to this document.

3 Demographics

A total of 1306 total people completed the community survey. 1230 of those indicated they live in the Rockdale City area.

There was good representation from across the area, with the respondents most likely to come from Bexley (17.8%), Rockdale (14.8%) and Sans Souci (10.4%). Respondents' suburb of origin is detailed in Appendix A.



4 Executive Summary

Respondents were divided in their preference for the future of Rockdale Council between:

- ✦ An amalgamation of Rockdale, Kogarah and Hurstville Councils to form a St George Council (36.0% of respondents indicated that this was their preferred option); and
- ✦ For Rockdale to Stand-alone, with an Improvement Program (35.0% indicated this was their preferred option).

For those who preferred the St George option, it was seen to be a logical model – building on existing community identity, culture and service provision in an existing St George region.

They saw the St George option as a good size to achieve economies of scale, reduce red tape, and remove duplication of services; and providing an opportunity for an holistic approach to service planning.

Those respondents who preferred the Rockdale Stand-alone option felt that there was little or no benefit for Council or residents in any merger. They were generally happy with Rockdale City Council and the range and quality of its services, associated costs and management.

Among those respondents, there was a strong feeling that increasing the size of Council and its area would mean a potential reduction in services and access to Council's administration. Another concern was the perception that the ability of local residents to have a voice in local affairs, would be significantly reduced, as would their access to elected representatives.

There was moderate support for two of the other options presented in the survey:

- ✦ 13% selected the amalgamation of Rockdale and Kogarah Councils as their first preference; and
- ✦ 11% chose a Bayside/Airport Council as their first preference.

Those who expressed preference for the Rockdale/Kogarah option felt that it was a more logical option, as the two areas were seen to have similar communities of interests and are already connected geographically. There was a strong sense that a union with Kogarah would be financially beneficial, as the Councils are already working together and sharing services.

The key factor for most respondents selecting the Bayside/Airport option was the opportunity to bring together the councils that surround the Airport and Port Botany and give those councils and communities a say in mitigating the negative impacts of the Airport and Port and an opportunity to share in the revenue and economic growth they generate.

There was very little community support for either an amalgamation of the St George and Canterbury Councils (4%) or a merger of just Rockdale and Hurstville Councils (1%).

When respondents were asked about their potential concerns about proposals for amalgamations, there was a strong perception that existing service levels would decline, through a decrease in quality of service and/or the frequency with which it was delivered.

Respondents also expressed concern about the possible increase of rates and charges, with no commensurate increase in service standards, and little or no local benefit.

The cost of the amalgamation process, possible job losses and fewer staff to do more work, were also seen as likely to result in decreased outcomes for residents.

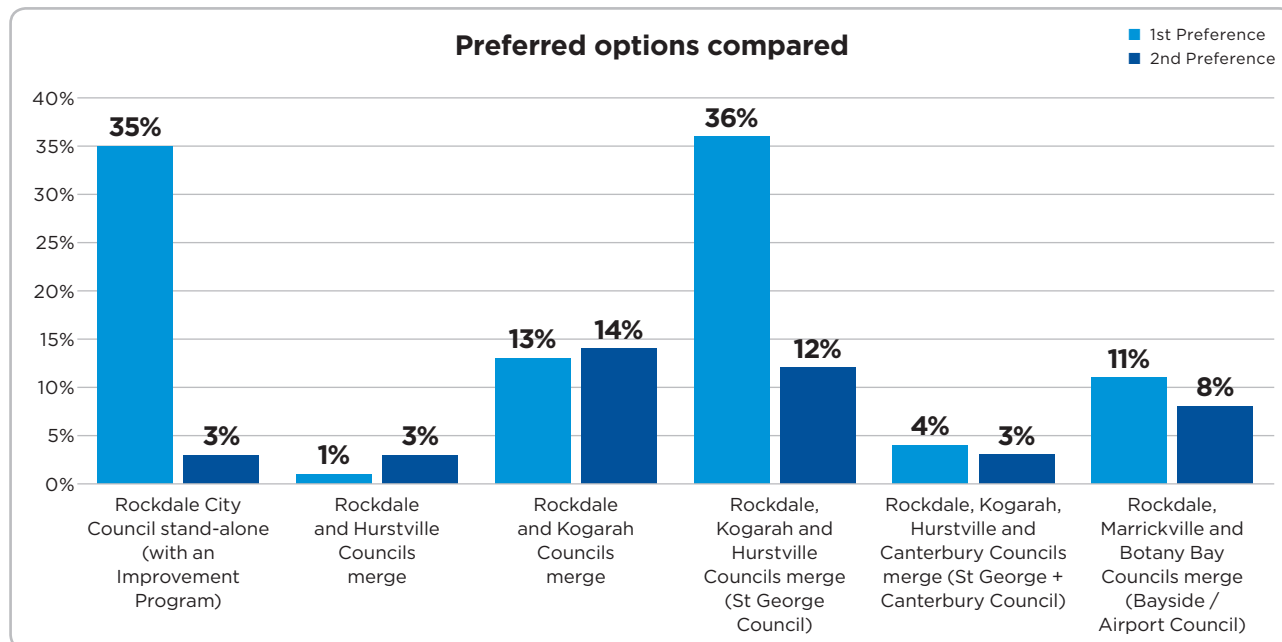
Some respondents were not confident that the process of amalgamation would be well managed – they were concerned that Rockdale Council might acquire the other council's poor practices, policies and debts of the other councils, or struggle to adopt common ways of working.

Finally, some respondents expressed concerns about a possible loss of political representation – and a reduced ability to access their elected representatives.

5 Results

5.1 PREFERRED OPTIONS

All respondents nominated a preferred option and only 42% nominated a second preference.



St George and the Rockdale Stand-alone (with an improved program) were the preferred first choice for the future of Rockdale City.

57.6% of (758) respondents did not nominate a second preference. The preferred second choice was for Rockdale and Kogarah Councils to merge.

5.2 CONSIDERATIONS FOR EACH OPTION

A full list of comments provided by respondents about their chosen option is provided in Appendix E. This section provides a summary of all responses received.

5.2.1 Rockdale Stand-alone with an Improvement Program

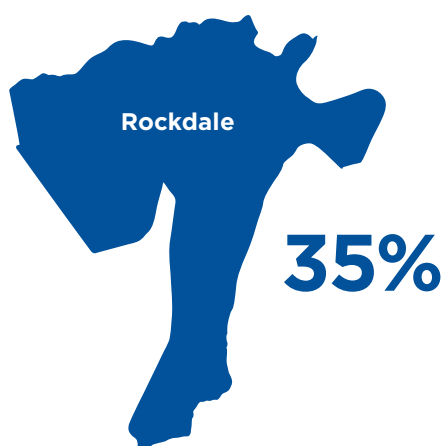
Amongst respondents who indicated they would like Rockdale to stand-alone, there was a strong feeling that Rockdale was better off as a stand-alone Council and that no benefit to Council or residents in any merger.

Respondents indicated they were happy with Rockdale City Council and in particular its service portfolio, standard and levels of service, associated costs and management. There was a strong feeling amongst respondents that increasing the size of the Council and the area would result in a reduction in services and access to Council.

A loss of local identity and focus and a reduced avenue for local residents to have a voice was also of concern to respondents.

Other concerns with any merger included the expense of the exercise and additional workload,

Concern that amalgamations generally do not result in short or long term, sustainable benefits for communities was also expressed.



"Having lived in Arncliffe for 38 years, I would like to see the local identity, representation, services and service level remain good"

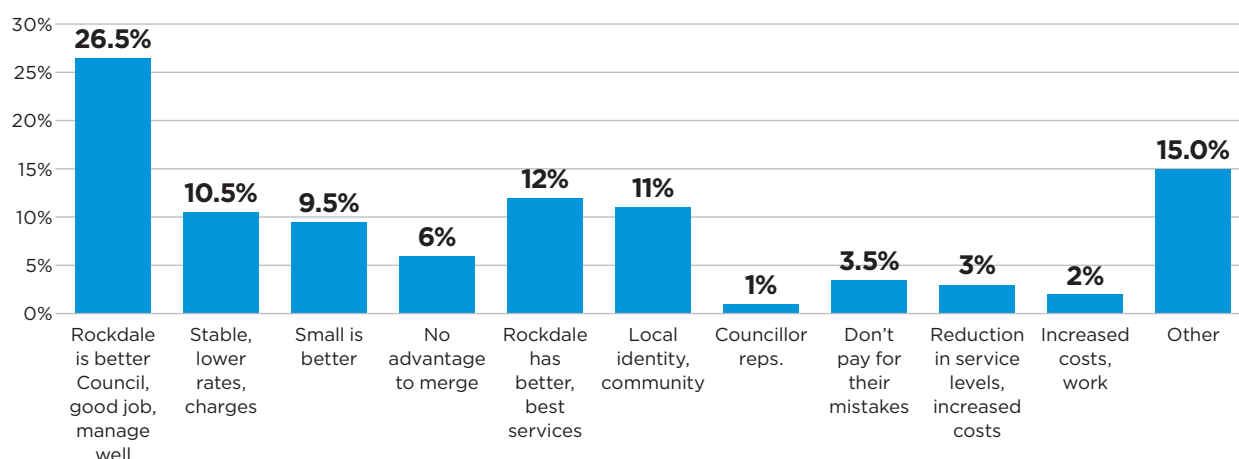
"Loss of local identity is a big concern"

"Rockdale City Council as is, is large enough to service residents"

"Less debt and less effect on rates"

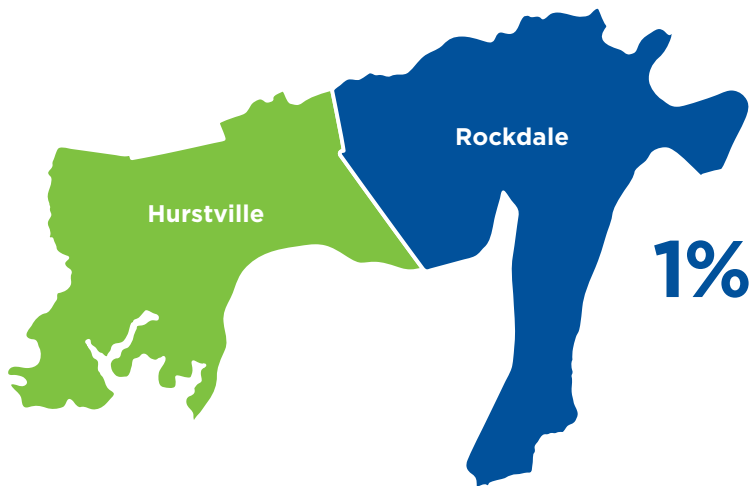
"Very happy with Rockdale City Council, afraid our service may be diminished if we join with others"

Reasons supporting Rockdale Stand-alone



5.2.2 Rockdale and Hurstville merge

There was limited and inconsistent opinion expressed for this option.

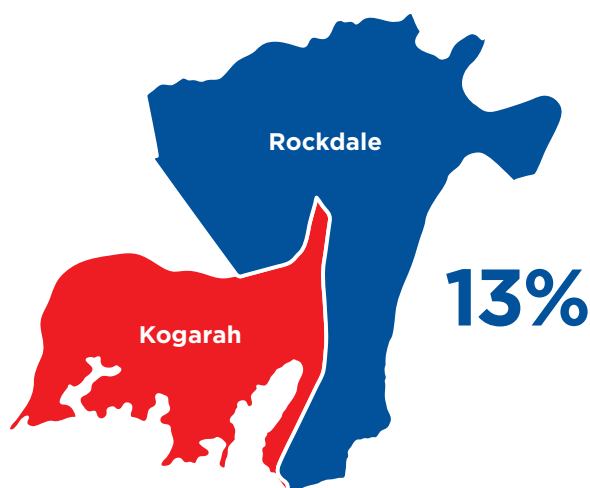


5.2.3 Rockdale and Kogarah merge

Respondents who liked this option, viewed this it as logical and a good size merger. People believed the areas had similar cultural diversity and common community interests. Further, that the two Local Government Areas are already closely connected geographically with common boundaries in several suburbs.

There was a strong sense that a union with Kogarah would be financially beneficial for Rockdale as we would not be taking on too much debt. It was seen to be a natural fit as we are already working together and sharing services (as well as sharing St George Hospital and Kogarah Police Station). This option was seen as a way to improve customer service, service delivery, decision making and management.

There was concern that adding or any other Council, particularly Hurstville would make the area too big.

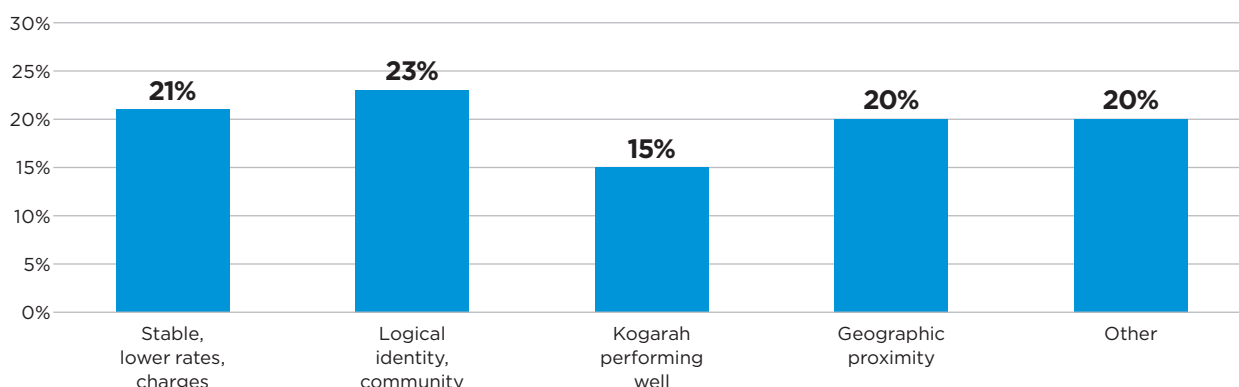


“More efficient but not too big an area”

“Rockdale/Kogarah is a natural fit plus Hurstville might be too big”

“I believe smaller councils give ...residents more of a voice. I think Rockdale City Council has been concerned with community interests. A merger with Kogarah would be acceptable and enhance our community interests”

Reasons supporting Rockdale merge with Kogarah

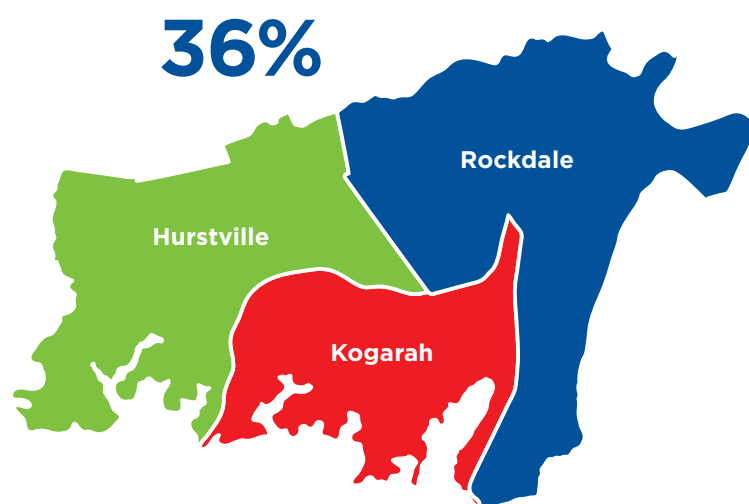


5.2.4 St George Council (Rockdale, Hurstville and Kogarah) merge

Amongst respondents who preferred this option, there was a strong sense of already belonging to a St George region and using services and infrastructure across it. It was considered a sound, logical governance model strengthening existing synergies of community identity, culture, urban form, service provision and even sport.

There was a sense that communities of interest across the region already exist and that the boundaries are arbitrary. This option was considered a good size merge and best mix to achieve economies of scale with a feeling that red tape and overheads would be reduced and duplication removed. A common theme was that a St George Council would remove some of the politics and that a holistic approach to service planning would be achieved under common management

There was a sense that the inclusion of Canterbury would overwhelm the St George councils and that there were no real synergies between St George and Canterbury Council.

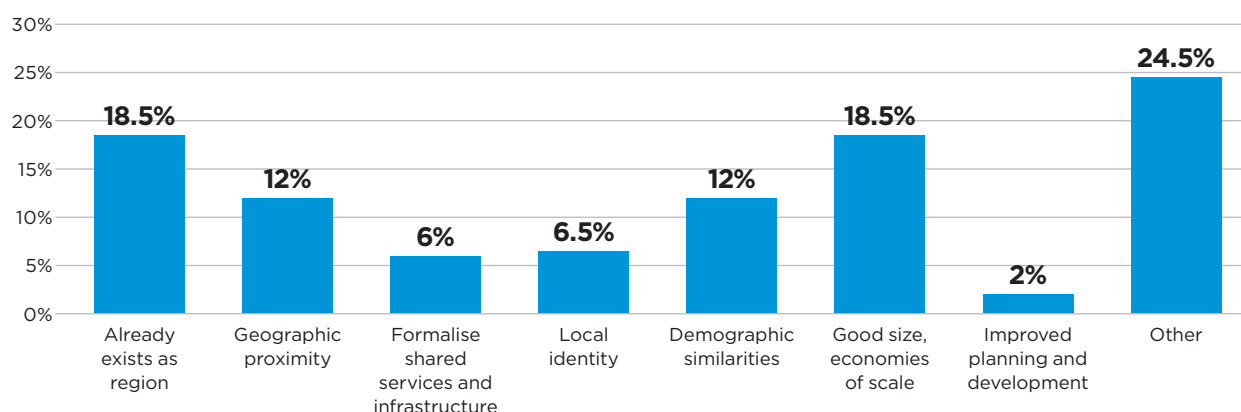


"It is the most logical amalgamation"

"To retain 100% of St George Council area, including the airport"

"It seems the most natural combination, from the point of view of daily life. I live in Rockdale, formerly worked in Kogarah and do a lot of shopping in Hurstville. These suburbs are connected by major roads, bus lines and train lines. Many people live in one of these areas and go to school or work and shop in the other two. The population diversity is comparable ...all served by the St George Hospital"

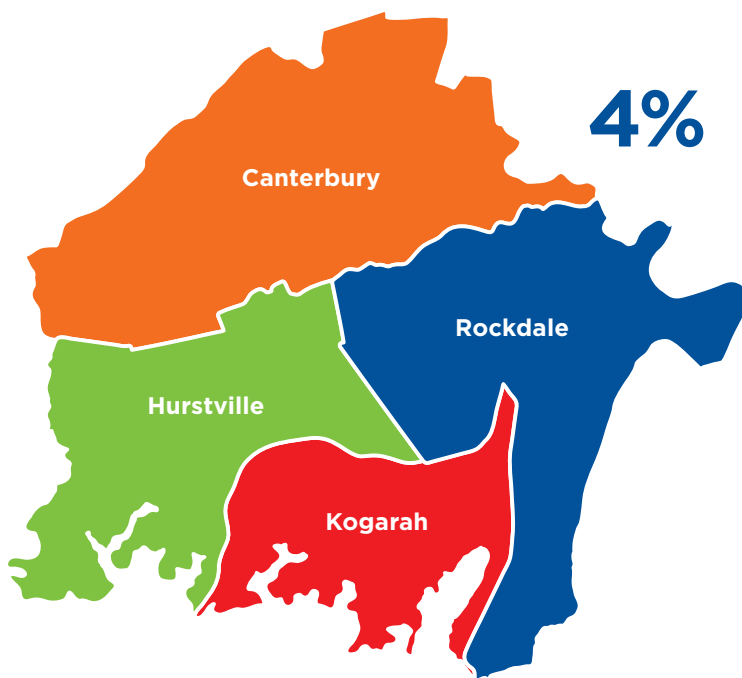
Reasons supporting Rockdale merge with Kogarah and Hurstville



5.2.5 St George (Rockdale, Hurstville and Kogarah) and Canterbury

Those who supported this option indicated that a larger area removes the duplication of servicing an increased population. It was suggested that the region would have a stronger voice in State Government decision making.

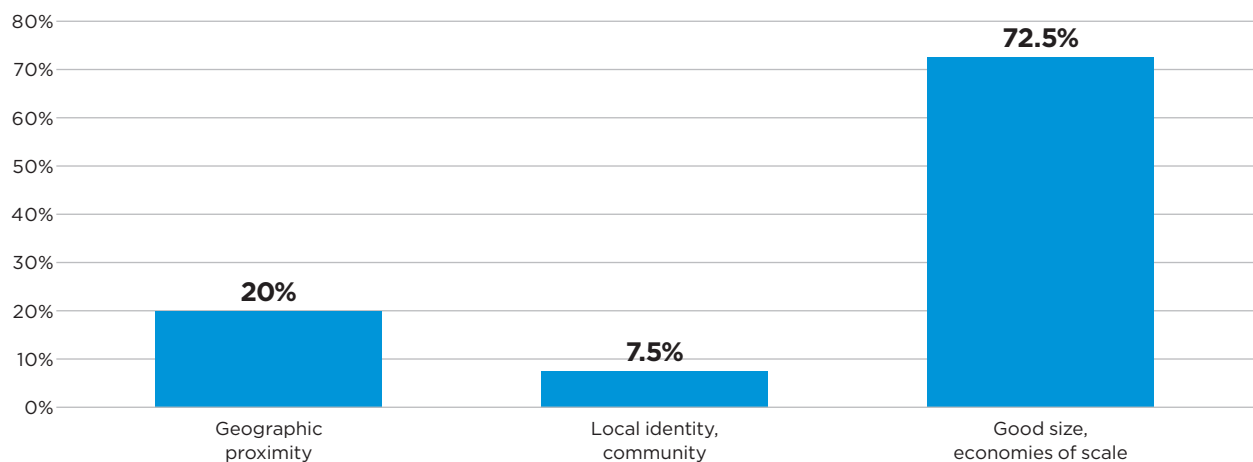
There was a feeling that with the larger option there would be fewer bosses and more workers that would achieve economies of scale.



“Greater consolidation... No need for little village councils with no money”

“I think that the worst option would be a merge with Canterbury. It is not a feasible option because of the demographics of the area are significantly different and I don’t think Rockdale would gain any benefit from this merger”

Reasons supporting Rockdale merge with Kogarah, Hurstville and Canterbury

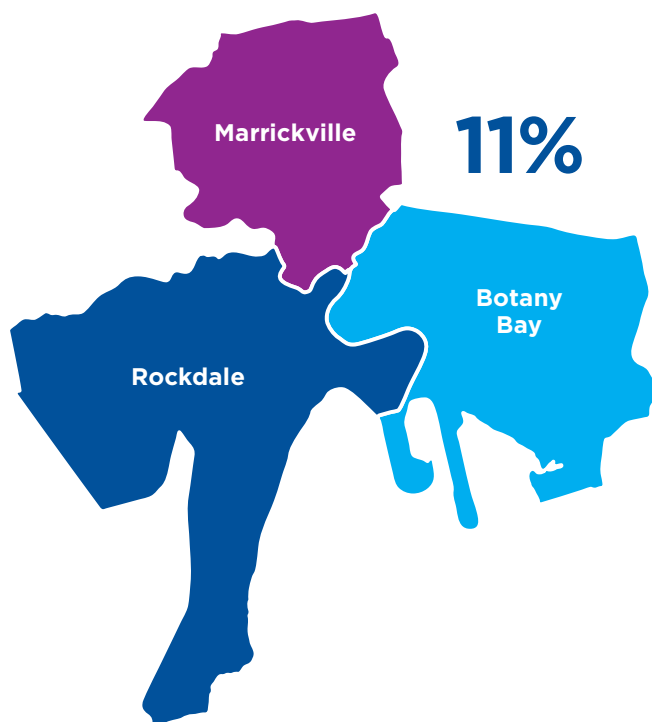


5.2.6 Bayside/Airport

The key benefit for most respondents who preferred this option was to keep Sydney Airport and Port Botany in the one area. Uniting the councils that bring major Sydney infrastructure together so that the management of these rests with one entity was particularly important for respondents.

Giving those councils and communities a voice and an opportunity to be part of the decision making processes of the Airport and Port was also important to respondents along with potential future revenue and economic growth for the area around the Airport.

There was also a feeling that there was an existing connection amongst the Marrickville and Rockdale communities, with Rockdale residents using Marrickville's parks, cafes and other infrastructure. Marrickville Council was well regarded amongst these respondents.

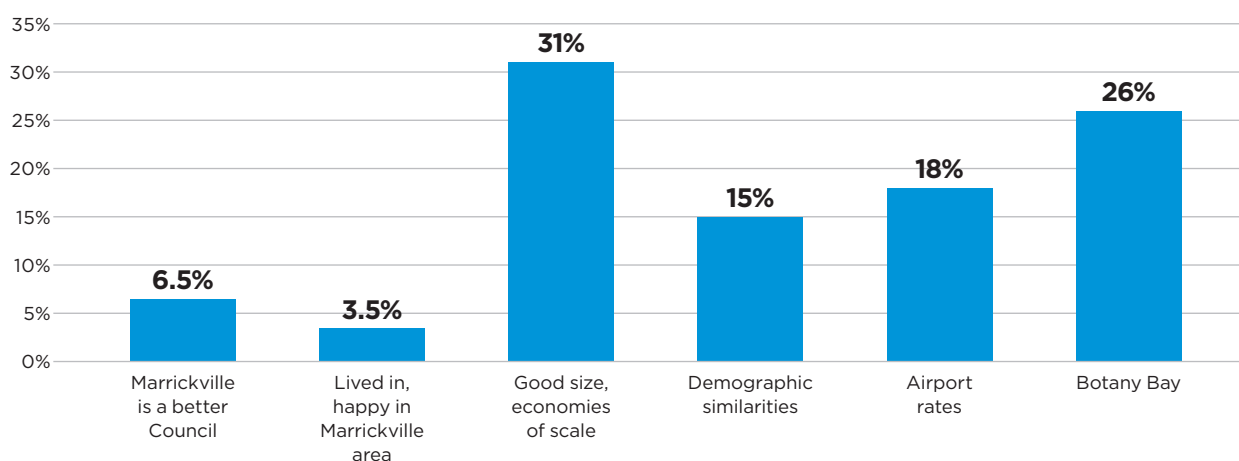


"It is the option that sets up the new amalgamation for success - the other options don't have (the) same potential"

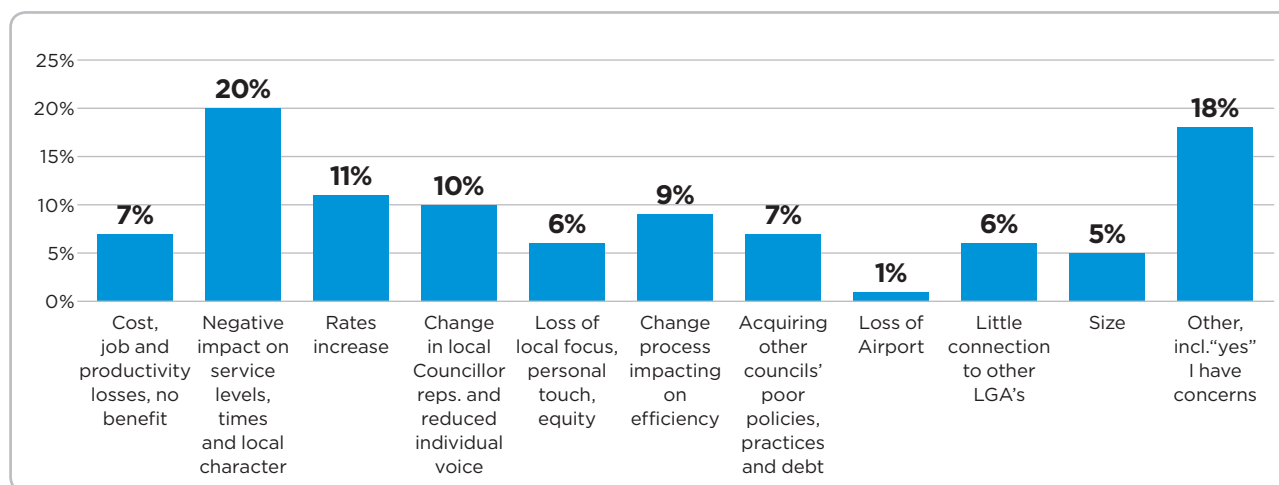
"Sydney Airport is an essential part of Rockdale Council and Sydney as a whole and is a prized asset that we shouldn't let go of easily. The only way to ensure that is to amalgamate with Marrickville and Botany Bay councils ...the addition of these two councils gives the added benefit of having both the major port and major airport of Sydney within the same council"

"Marrickville in particular are politically progressive, and from an administrative perspective seem to have better controls and transparency around major developments and ensuring they deliver value to the community"

Reasons supporting Rockdale merge with Botany Bay and Marrickville



5.3 COMMUNITY CONCERNS ABOUT AMALGAMATIONS



Of the respondents who expressed their concerns about the proposed amalgamations, the majority were concerned with a negative and inequitable impact on services. This incorporated a decrease in service level, reduced quality and/or frequency of service provision and longer response/processing and decision making times.

There was a concern that rates would increase with little or no local benefit. The cost of the amalgamation process and the larger entity, job losses and less staff to do more, were all seen as resulting in decreased outcomes for residents.



“...State Government is moving ever closer to regional government areas. The ‘local’ component is disappearing”

“Changes to rates and services, taking on debt of other councils”

“Don’t want it to be too big and lose focus”

“Reduced efficiency due to large size”

“Imbalance of rates and facilities...”

“The State Government hasn’t, I believe, made a case for or proven that amalgamation is in the best interests nor has it shown that councils will be financially viable”





A range of factors to do with how amalgamation would actually be rolled out and managed were also expressed. Incorporating practical elements such as the ability to adopt common ways of working and managing different practices. There was fear that the change process may have negative impacts on efficiency and a loss in productivity and job losses and uncertainty were seen to contribute to this. The potential acquisition of other councils' poor practices, policies and debt was also a recurring theme.

A change to Councillor representation was also of importance to people. For some it was concern about reduced access to elected members while for others, it was about welcoming the opportunity to reduce the number of elected representatives. An anticipated loss of the individual voice in what happens in the local area was also raised - a loss of local identity and focus coupled with a reduction in care or the personal touch.

For some respondents, not having a connection to the proposed areas for amalgamation or having a negative impression of the other councils and communities was an issue.

Other concerns expressed included a feeling that amalgamation has not worked elsewhere, and a fear that cost shifting is occurring between the State and local governments and other elements of intergovernmental relations.

Some respondents did not have concerns about proposed amalgamations but rather indicated their support. A range of reasons were provided for this support including opportunities for improved efficiencies, reducing rules and governance.

A complete of all concerns expressed is contained in Appendix F.

6 Conclusion

The Fit for the Future community engagement program was undertaken by Council to engage the residents, ratepayers and other interested members of the Rockdale community in discussion about the State Government's proposed amalgamation of Rockdale City as part of its Fit for the Future initiative.

The process met all its key objectives of informing and engaging the community. 1306 people formally responded by completing a survey either electronically or in hardcopy. Many more spoke to the Mayor and General Manager at a series of Council Hours across the City.

The survey findings conclude that the two most preferred options for the future of Rockdale City and Council were for Rockdale City Council to stand-alone with an Improvement Program or merge with Kogarah and Hurstville as one St George Council. There was little or no support for Rockdale to merge with Hurstville or for Canterbury to form part of a new St George Council. Of the respondents who expressed concern about the proposed amalgamation of Rockdale, the majority were concerned with a negative and inequitable impact on services.

The results will inform Council's decision making and be incorporated into Council's Fit for the Future submission.



7 Appendices

Appendix A Materials to support information provision

- 1 Rockdale Reviews
- 2 Media releases
- 3 Website materials
- 4 Facebook posts
- 5 Displays

Appendix B Rockdale City's Future survey

- 1 Rockdale City's Future hardcopy survey
- 2 Rockdale City's Future online survey

Appendix C Rockdale City's Future information brochure

Appendix D Respondents suburb of origin

Appendix E Open ended responses: considerations for each option

Appendix F Open ended responses: concerns expressed about amalgamations

Appendix G Other feedback

Appendix H Feedback received from 8 May to 4 June 2015



APPENDIX A MATERIALS TO SUPPORT INFORMATION PROVISION

1 Rockdale Reviews

Rockdale Review Mayor's Message February 2015

MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Welcome back to a new year and the first issue of your community newsletter.

Australian Day Celebrations went well and on behalf of our community I would like to congratulate our Citizen of the Year Yvonne Holcroft, Young Citizen of the Year Sarah Mandile and Sports person of the Year Stephanie Magiros.

I would also like to thank the community for their support for another successful Mayoral Charity Christmas Dinner. This time we raised \$10,578.84 for the Miracle Babies Foundation which supports families of babies born prematurely.

The season for showcasing our local arts community is nearly upon us with creARTivity and ROGAP kicking off in March. February will see our Chinese community lead our City in celebrating Lunar New Year. Event information can be found in this newsletter.

Work on the new Rockdale City Library is progressing well. Demolition is nearly finished and excavation and piling works will start soon.

Bexley North public toilets and Bexley Oval grandstand are underway and tenders have been called for Arncliffe and Gardiner Parks sport amenities as we continue to renew Rockdale City.

Council is ready to accept the challenge of the State Government's *Fit for the Future* amalgamation reforms. I will be making sure the community has a voice during the process as we explore the options for our future.

Shane O'Brien

Councillor Shane O'Brien, Mayor

Rockdale Review Article February 2015

ROCKDALE CITY'S FUTURE



Consider Our Options
November 2014 to March 2015

Inform Our Community
February to ongoing 2015

Engage Our Community
April 2015

Consider Community Feedback
May 2015

Decide on Our Response to NSW Government
May 2015

Submit Fit for the Future Response
June 2015

Update Our Community
July 2015

The NSW Government has proposed a number of changes for local councils as part of its Fit for the Future reform agenda including reducing the number of councils through voluntary amalgamations.

What is Fit for the Future?

NSW councils are being asked to consider the State Government's proposed reform program for Local Government – Fit for the Future. Council is obliged to carefully consider the options for Rockdale City and prepare a submission by 30 June 2015.



What are the options for Rockdale City?

ST GEORGE COUNCIL
Amalgamation of the three existing St George Councils into one (Hurstville, Kogarah, and Rockdale) adjusting the boundary at Sydney Airport. This may also include Canterbury Council.

BAYSIDE COUNCIL
An amalgamation of Botany Bay, Marrickville and Rockdale Councils to create an urban employment hub. This would unite Port Botany and Sydney Airport.

The NSW Government's preferred option is for a St George Council. Council is exploring both options. To proceed with an amalgamation, all partnering councils must support the proposal.

At this time, we are at the investigation phase and there has not been agreement amongst potential amalgamation partners to go ahead with either option. If Council is unable to reach an agreement, we will be required to submit a standalone Improvement Proposal seeking Fit for the Future endorsement. In our response, Council will continue to strongly oppose any boundary adjustment at Sydney Airport.

What is Council doing about it?

Rockdale City Council has begun work on our Fit for the Future response by looking at all the potential options for our Local Government Area and talking with our neighbour councils. We have also started to assess our capability to deliver efficient services and infrastructure well into the future.

What if we do nothing?

The Minister for Local Government has said: "Doing nothing is not an option". If we do nothing the NSW Government may make a decision without Council's or our community's involvement. It is in our community's best interest to seriously consider all options for Rockdale City and respond to the NSW Government.

What are the benefits and impacts?

In our assessment of the options, we are considering the potential benefits for and impacts on our community. This includes possible changes to rates, services and planning for communities. Further information will be presented in the coming weeks.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Telephone 9562 1858
Web rockdale.nsw.gov.au/OurFuture

Stay informed and get involved

We are still at the early stages of formulating our approach. Throughout the process, we will keep you informed.

In late March and April, we will be seeking your feedback to help shape the future of Rockdale City. In order for Council to make decisions which reflect our community's wishes we need the community to let us know what they think.

Please take the time to consider the options for the future of Rockdale City and get involved. Keep an eye out in your letterbox for the Options for Rockdale City's Future Information Brochure over the coming weeks.

It will outline the State Government's Fit for the Future Program options for our Local Government Area, where and when you can speak with Council, and how you can have your say.

To register your interest in staying informed and/or being involved, email your name and daytime phone number to ourfuture@rockdale.nsw.gov.au

APPENDIX A MATERIALS TO SUPPORT INFORMATION PROVISION

Rockdale Review Mayor's Message March 2015

MAYOR'S MESSAGE



As we celebrate our 20th anniversary as a City, we are facing one of the biggest decisions in our history.

Rockdale's application for City status was granted due to our multicultural population, metropolitan transport infrastructure, established commercial centres of Rockdale, Bexley, Arncliffe, Brighton Le Sands, Kingsgrove and Ramsgate, the significance of Botany Bay and our parklands.

We became a City at a Council meeting on Monday 27 February 1995. The Governor of NSW, Rear Admiral Peter Sinclair, made the formal declaration at Brighton Le Sands on Saturday 24 June 1995.

We are entering a new era as we prepare our response to the State Government's plan to merge NSW councils.

To make our decision we need to know what you think about a standalone Rockdale or a merged Council.

You will soon receive an information brochure in the mail. Please take the time to consider the options available to us.


What happens is now up to you. Register online, get involved and have your say.

As we approach the Easter holiday weekend I hope you all stay safe and take extra care on the roads.

Shane O'Brien

Councillor Shane O'Brien, Mayor

Rockdale Review Article March 2015



Rockdale City's Future

Fit for the Future

Telephone 9562 1858
Web rockdale.nsw.gov.au/OurFuture

Let's talk about the airport

The State Government wants to remove Sydney Airport from the Rockdale City boundary as part of the recommendation to establish a St. George Council. Fit for the Future recommends 'Amalgamation of the three St. George Councils into one (Hurstville, Kogarah and Rockdale) adjusting the boundary at the Airport. This may also include Canterbury Council'.

The airport is a significant piece of State transport infrastructure that pays rate equivalent payments to Rockdale City Council for the part of the airport within our boundary. Council currently receives rate payments of around \$600,000 per annum from the airport.

Changing the boundary that removes the airport from Rockdale – would also remove the revenue, yet we would still have the impacts of the airport on our City.

Keep the airport

Having an airport in our City delivers revenue through rate equivalent payments.

Council continually aims to renegotiate the level of these payments with Sydney Airport Corporation Limited.

Impacts we sustain as a Council include:

- ◆ Noise, odour, dust or other physical intrusions;
- ◆ Noticeable traffic impacts such as increased traffic congestion at certain times or an increase in heavy vehicle traffic;
- ◆ Impacts on public transport linkages or services;
- ◆ Commercial impacts affecting the viability of business centres in the surrounding areas;
- ◆ Lighting impacts on residential areas or other businesses;
- ◆ Hazardous materials or dangerous goods;
- ◆ Impacts on land use and transport planning;
- ◆ Impacts on the safety, security or amenity of local communities; and

Other councils and the airport

The airport is 'spread' across three local government areas – the majority is in the City of Botany Bay Council area; a fair sized chunk is in Rockdale City and a smaller parcel is located in Marrickville.

Adjusting the airport boundary

The Government's Review Panel Report 'A Case for Sustainable Change (2012)' indicates 'Key Transport Infrastructure such as Airports and Ports, should be within the same local government area (Council)'.

The Government's Fit for the Future program seeks to position the Botany and Rockdale land holdings of Sydney International Airport into a new entity known as the global City of Sydney Council.

Without the airport in our boundary – the revenue would go to the well resourced City of Sydney Council.

Get involved

Council needs your help to shape the future of our City. We will send out an Information Brochure over the coming weeks.

It will outline the State Government's Fit for the Future Program options for our Local Government Area, where and when you can speak with Council, and how you can have your say.

To make sure you are informed email your name and phone number to ourfuture@rockdale.nsw.gov.au

SAVE THE DATE

Come and talk to Council staff on **Saturday 11 April 2015** at one of the five information points across the City.

They will be able to answer your questions about the proposed changes for Rockdale City.

Times and locations will be in your Information Brochure and on Council's website.

Consider Our Options
November 2014 to March 2015

Inform Our Community
February to ongoing 2015

Engage Our Community
April 2015

Consider Community Feedback
May 2015

Decide on Our Response to NSW Government
May 2015

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June 2015

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July 2015

APPENDIX A MATERIALS TO SUPPORT INFORMATION PROVISION

Rockdale Review Mayor's Message April/May 2015

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

I am proud of how our community has come together to support the families and victims of the recent Nepal earthquake.

A candlelight vigil in King Street Place as well as a dinner organised by The Hon Shaoquett Moselmane MLC and Council raised an estimated \$10,000 for the Nepal Earthquake Children's Appeal. At a Council meeting on Wednesday 6 May we agreed to donate another \$14,475 to the appeal.

It was an honour to be part of the many recent ANZAC commemorative services in our City including the rededication of the Rockdale Remembrance Garden at Seven Ways. The restored memorial is a fitting tribute to the many local residents who enlisted.

I would like to thank everyone for filling out the Fit for the Future survey which will help ensure Council submits the best possible option for our City to the NSW Government.

I would also like to thank our Youth Council for initiating the successful ParkLarks youth event at our skate park.

Council has also signed a contract for the construction of the Rockdale City Aquatic Centre at Bexley. Construction is expected to start in July and we hope to have the pool completed by early 2017.

Don't forget to sign up for the Albie Thomas Fun Run on Sunday 24 May.



Councillor Shane O'Brien, Mayor



Rockdale Review Article April/May 2015

Rockdale City's Future



Community opinion is one factor in a range of considerations informing our response to the State Government's Fit for the Future program.

Through our Fit for the Future survey residents, ratepayers and people who work in Rockdale City all had the opportunity participate in this very important process.

Council is now analysing the responses to our survey before submitting our proposal to the State Government.

A merger can only be proposed if a neighbouring Council resolves to merge with Rockdale City Council and if we believe that this merger is in the best interests of our residents.

More Information

Website www.rockdale.nsw.gov.au/OurFuture

Phone **9562 1858**

APPENDIX A MATERIALS TO SUPPORT INFORMATION PROVISION

2 Media Articles – St George and Sutherland Shire Leader

Thursday 12 February 2015

Tuesday 17 February 2015

Rockdale to seek merger opinions

ROCKDALE Council wants feedback from the community before it decides whether or not to support a merger with neighbouring councils.

At the February 4 council meeting councillors passed a motion to seek input from the community in April after the state election next month.

That would include a possible forum and a survey posted to residents.

The council also resolved to continue to explore the creation of a St George council that would include Hurstville and Kogarah councils.

An alternative option also being considered is the creation of an employment council that would include Botany Bay and Marrickville councils.

Rockdale mayor Shane O'Brien has previously said the council would consider all options as long as it benefited residents.

"Personally, I think it's important that any merger ensures long-term financial sustainability, improved service delivery and provides capacity for the new council to address issues impacting on our community as a result of our proximity to major infrastructure, such as the port and airport," he said.

The state government launched the \$1 billion Fit for the Future package in September which will see \$258 million provided to those councils that merge, including \$153 million for councils in Sydney.

Councils have until June 30 to submit their proposal on how they plan to be "fit for the future".



Cr O'Brien



Have your say: Residents will meet with Rockdale mayor Shane O'Brien at a public forum on February 24.

Picture: Jane Dyson

Time to speak up is now

By Kahlia Beichert

RESIDENTS can voice their ideas and concerns to Rockdale mayor Shane O'Brien at a public forum on Tuesday, February 24.

Cr O'Brien said the forum was a chance to hear from residents.

"I think it's a great chance for the community to hear from their elected representatives," he said.

"It's really worthwhile for the council and the community.

"For me, you get to hear some great ideas — a different way of looking at things."

Residents who attend will be told of large council projects in the previous 12 months and what is to come.

"I'm really pleased that after 30 years, the new library is under way," Cr O'Brien said.

"It's a big result and something people have waited a long time.

"Looking forward, we will continue to work on the backlog of infrastructure the city has.

"There is a general renewal around Rockdale which will make a big difference."

Details: 6.30pm, Rockdale Town Hall. Forum registrations: the council's website or 9562 1770.

Thursday 16 April 2015

Chance to have your say on merger plan

By Kahlia Beichert

ROCKDALE residents will have the chance to have their say on possible council mergers through a series of meetings with Rockdale mayor Shane O'Brien and general manager Meredith Wallace.

The first council hour will be held 7am-8.30am on Friday, April 17, at Arncliffe railway

station. This will be followed up by events at Kingsgrove, Rockdale, Ramsgate and Bexley over the next two weeks.

The council organised the meetings to discuss the mergers with residents and has released a brochure on all merger options.

The state government launched the \$1 billion Fit for the Future package in September.

A total of \$258 million will be given to councils that merge, including \$153 million for councils in Sydney.

Councils have until June 30 to submit how they plan to be "fit for the future".

Rockdale Council hired consultant Morrison Low for an independent assessment of each option ahead of the June deadline.

Options include Rockdale remaining a

single council, a merger with Hurstville Council, a merger with Kogarah Council, a new St George council (Rockdale, Hurstville and Kogarah councils), a St George and Canterbury council or a Bayside/Airport council including Rockdale, Botany Bay and Marrickville councils.

Details: rockdale.nsw.gov.au

APPENDIX A MATERIALS TO SUPPORT INFORMATION PROVISION

3 Website Materials

Council's Website Home Page

[ABOUT ROCKDALE CITY COUNCIL](#)
[ABOUT ROCKDALE](#)
[BUILDING & DEVELOPMENT](#)
[NEWS & EVENTS](#)
[ONLINE SERVICES & PAYMENTS](#)
[CONTACT US](#)






HAVE YOUR SAY

Home

YOUR COUNCIL

Community, Customer & Recreation Services

Council Projects

Building and Development

+ Environmental & Waste Services

+ Library

+ Roads & Traffic

+ Animals & Trees

QUICK LINKS

[Application Forms](#) >

[Council Documents](#) >

[Emergency Contact Information](#) >

[Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#)

[City Plan](#) >

[Listen](#) >

[Maps](#) >

[Language Services](#) >

[Jobs at Rockdale](#) >

[Contractor Induction](#) >

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

16 may

Bushcare Group
9am-12:30pm
Binnamittalong Gardens
[More](#) >

16 may

Monterey Fibro Moderne
10am-11:30am
Guided Walking Tour
[More](#) >

16 may

Energy Smart @ Home
10am-12noon
Environmental Workshop
[More](#) >

18 may

Workshop: Supervisors of Learner Drivers
6:30pm-8:30pm
Free Workshop
[More](#) >

19 may

HSC English - Area of Study
5pm-6:30pm
Free Workshop
[More](#) >

23 may

Bushcare Group
9am-12:30pm
Stotts Reserve
[More](#) >

HAVE YOUR SAY & UPDATES





FIT FOR THE FUTURE
TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Council Hour with the Mayor & GM

Rockdale City Mayoral Forums

Have Your Say On:

- Draft Operational Plan 2015-2016
- Speak Up - Young People
- More ...

Keeping You Informed:



- Off-Leash Dog Exercise Review
- Renewing Rockdale SRV Application

APPENDIX A

MATERIALS TO SUPPORT INFORMATION PROVISION

Fit for the Future Website Information Page (Part 1)

[ABOUT ROCKDALE CITY COUNCIL](#)
[ABOUT ROCKDALE](#)
[BUILDING & DEVELOPMENT](#)
[NEWS & EVENTS](#)
[ONLINE SERVICES & PAYMENTS](#)
[CONTACT US](#)


[Home](#) > [Fit for the Future](#)

QUICK LINKS

[Application Forms](#)

[Council Documents](#)

[Emergency Contact Information](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#)

[City Plan](#)

[Listen](#)

[Maps](#)

[Language Services](#)

[Jobs at Rockdale](#)

[Contractor Induction](#)

[Council Staff Logon](#)

[Graffiti Reporting](#)

Font Size -

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Fit for the Future

Council responds to the IPART Methodology for Assessment of Council Fit for the Future Proposals (Local Government - Consultation Paper April 2015). For more information on the IPART Consultation Paper, visit the [IPART website](#).

The Rockdale City's Future Survey has closed. Thank you to everyone who provided feedback. Council will be considering all responses collectively and together they will help to inform Council's submission to the NSW Government in June 2015.

Council Hour with the Mayor & GM

Mayor Shane O'Brien and our General Manager Meredith Wallace will be available to discuss any aspects of the Fit for the Future over the coming weeks. Please come to one of the following locations to find out more:

Arncliffe Friday 17 April, 7am – 8:30am
Arncliffe Train Station, Firth Street

Kingsgrove Tuesday 24 April, 4:30pm – 6pm
Corner of Shaw and Kingsgrove Roads
CANCELLED (bad weather)

Rockdale Thursday 23 April, 5:30pm – 7pm
Rockdale Plaza, 1 Rockdale Plaza Drive

Ramsgate Saturday 2 May, 8:30am – 10am
Ramsgate Organic Market (Ramsgate Public School), Chuter Avenue

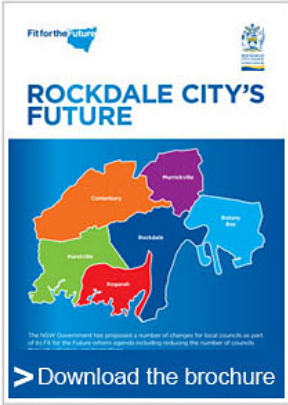
Bexley Saturday 2 May, 10:30am – 12 noon
Bexley Community Centre, 405 Bexley Road

Council Hour Extension: Rockdale Thursday 7 May, 5:30pm – 7pm
Rockdale Plaza (in front of Big W), 1 Rockdale Plaza Drive

Please note that Council Hour dates have changed from Saturday 11 April 2015 to allow more time for discussion.

Get involved in Rockdale's future

Community opinion will be one of the contributing factors in our response to the State Government. A merger can only be proposed if a neighbouring Council agrees to merge with Rockdale City Council and we believe that this merger is in the best interests of our residents.



APPENDIX A

MATERIALS TO SUPPORT INFORMATION PROVISION

Fit for the Future Website Information Page (Part 2)

What is Fit for the Future?

The Fit for the Future Program follows a Review of Local Government carried out over several months by an Independent Review Panel. In its final report the Panel made a series of recommendations designed to strengthen local government in NSW. A reduction in the total number of councils in NSW through voluntary amalgamations was one of the recommendations.

For more information see the NSW Government's [Fit for the Future](#)

What if we do nothing?

In announcing the Fit for the Future review program, the Minister for Local Government has made it clear that doing nothing is not an option for councils. If we do nothing, the NSW Government may make a decision without Council's or our community's involvement. It is in our community's best interest to seriously consider all options for Rockdale City and respond to the NSW Government.

What is Council doing about it?

Council is taking a proactive approach, developing options that will meet the Fit for the Future requirements and be in the best interests of our community and organisation.

We have begun work on our Fit for the Future response by looking at all the potential options for our Local Government Area and talking with our neighbouring Councils.

We have engaged external consultants (Morrison Low) to do an independent assessment of the viability of each option, and prepare an overview of what each option might look like for Rockdale City. The results have been used to inform the description of the options in our [Fit for the Future brochure](#).

Read the full Morrison Low reports:

- [Airport/Bayside Council](#)
- [Rockdale/St George Council](#)

If after considering all options Council decides to put forward a 'standalone' proposal, we will need to demonstrate how Council can build on our already strong financial position to ensure we are Fit for the Future. Independent assessment of Rockdale has concluded that we can make "a valid argument that we meet the scale and capacity tests standing alone" (Morrison Low 2015).

More Information

Telephone 9562 1770 or 9562 1858. To register your interest in staying informed and/or involved email your name and daytime phone number to ourfuture@rockdale.nsw.gov.au

APPENDIX A MATERIALS TO SUPPORT INFORMATION PROVISION

Email (Have Your Say and Fit for the Future registered email list)



Have Your Say on Various Projects, Plans and Policies

Dear [PARTICIPANT_SCREEN_NAME],

You may have heard about the State Government's Fit for the Future Program which includes voluntary council amalgamations. In response Council is required to make a submission to the State Government by 30 June 2015.

To help with our decision making we will be engaging with our community between Monday 13 April and Thursday 8 May 2015.

Distribution of the [Rockdale City's Future brochure](#) and survey to all households and businesses is underway across the City. We encourage you to read the brochure and complete the survey. You can complete the survey in your mailbox and return to Council or [complete the survey online](#) by 8 May 2015.

We also encourage you to join us at **Council Hour** to catch the Mayor and General Manager.

Mayor Shane O'Brien and our General Manager Meredith Wallace will be available to discuss any aspects of the Fit for the Future over the coming weeks.

Please come to one of the following locations to find out more.

Arncliffe **Friday 17 April, 7am – 8:30am**

Arncliffe Train Station, Firth Street

Kingsgrove **Tuesday 21 April, 4:30pm – 6pm**

Corner of Shaw and Kingsgrove Roads

Rockdale **Thursday 23 April, 5:30pm – 7pm**

Rockdale Plaza, 1 Rockdale Plaza Drive

Ramsgate **Saturday 2 May, 8:30am – 10am**

Ramsgate Organic Market (Ramsgate Public School), Chuter Avenue

Bexley **Saturday 2 May, 10:30am – 12 noon**

Bexley Community Centre, 405 Bexley Road

Please Note that Council Hour dates have changed from Saturday 11 April 2015 to allow more time for discussion.

If you require additional information about having your say in this very important process for Rockdale City please reply to ourfuture@rockdale.nsw.gov.au.

For all other enquiries about our Fit for the Future response visit [our website](#) or phone 9562 1858.

Thank you and we look forward to your feedback

Rockdale City Council

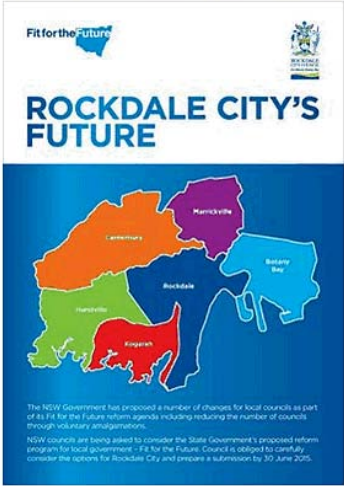
APPENDIX A MATERIALS TO SUPPORT INFORMATION PROVISION

4 Facebook Posts – Rockdale City Council Page

Monday 13 April 2015

Rockdale City Council
Posted by Seismic [?] · 13 April · 🌐

#FitForTheFuture: Council #amalgamations. Comm. booklet & survey out soon. More info @ www.rockdale.nsw.gov.au



The NSW Government has proposed a number of changes for local councils as part of its Fit for the Future reform agenda including reducing the number of councils through voluntary amalgamations. NSW councils are being asked to consider the State Government's proposed reform program for local government - Fit for the Future. Council is obliged to carefully consider the options for Rockdale City and prepare a submission by 30 June 2015.

136 people reached

Boost Post

Tuesday 21 April 2015

Rockdale City Council
Posted by Seismic [?] · 21 April · 🌐

PSA: Today's #CouncilHour @ Kingsgrove with the Mayor & GM has been #cancelled #badweather #sorry #Rockdale



92 people reached

Boost Post

Monday 4 May 2015

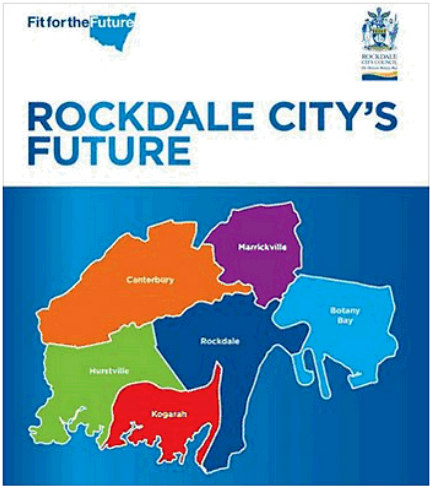
Rockdale City Council
Posted by Seismic [?] · 4 May at 17:05 · 🌐

Missed your chance to catch up with the Mayor and General Manager to discuss #Rockdale City's #Future at #Council #Hour?

Council Hour has been extended with another scheduled at Rockdale Plaza this Thursday 7 May from 5:30pm to 7pm (in front of Big W)

Don't miss this final opportunity to discuss or find out more about Rockdale City's Future before the community #survey concludes....

See More



163 people reached

Boost Post

Friday 8 May 2015

Rockdale City Council
Posted by Hootsuite [?] · 8 May at 16:56 · 🌐

#Rockdale's #Future Survey has #closed. Thanks to all. Will help in our submission to the NSW Govt #FitForTheFuture <http://ow.ly/i/alvJi>



163 people reached

Boost Post

APPENDIX A MATERIALS TO SUPPORT INFORMATION PROVISION

5 Displays



APPENDIX B

ROCKDALE CITY'S FUTURE SURVEY

1 Rockdale City's Future hardcopy survey



ROCKDALE CITY'S FUTURE Survey

Reply Paid
if posted in Australia



Please take the time to read the Rockdale City's Future Brochure. Fill in and return the survey on the back of this card by Friday 8 May 2015 or complete the online survey at www.rockdale.nsw.gov.au/OurFuture

Reply Paid 27
Rockdale City's Future
PO Box 21
Rockdale NSW 2216

FRONT

1. After reading the brochure which of the following options do you prefer? Please tick ONE box only OR write the numbers 1 and 2 to indicate your first and second preferences.

- ☐ Rockdale City Council Standalone (with an Improvement Program)
- ☐ Rockdale and Hurstville Councils merge
- ☐ Rockdale and Kogarah Councils merge
- ☐ Rockdale, Kogarah and Hurstville Councils merge (St George Council)
- ☐ Rockdale, Kogarah, Hurstville and Canterbury Councils merge (St George + Canterbury Council)
- ☐ Rockdale, Marrickville and Botany Bay Councils merge (Bayside/Airport Council)

2. Please tell us why you chose this option(s).

3. Do you have any concerns about Council amalgamations?


4. Which suburb(s) do you live in or pay rates in?

Live: _____ Pay rates: _____ Thank You for your time!


BACK

APPENDIX B ROCKDALE CITY'S FUTURE SURVEY

2 Rockdale City's Future online survey



Rockdale City's Future



Questions marked with a red * require a response.

* After reading the brochure which of the following options do you prefer? (Please indicate your 1st and 2nd preferences)

	1st Preference	2nd Preference
Rockdale City Council Standalone (with an Improvement Program)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Rockdale and Hurstville Councils merge	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Rockdale and Kogarah Councils merge	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Rockdale, Kogarah and Hurstville Councils merge (St George Councils)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Rockdale, Kogarah, Hurstville and Canterbury Councils merge (St George + Canterbury Council)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Rockdale, Marrickville and Botany Bay Councils merge (Bayside / Airport Council)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please tell us why you chose this option(s)

Do you have any concerns about Council amalgamations?

Which Rockdale City suburb do you live in? (Please select one)

- ☐ I don't live in Rockdale City
- ☐ Arncliffe
- ☐ Banksia
- ☐ Bardwell Park
- ☐ Bardwell Valley
- ☐ Bexley
- ☐ Bexley North
- ☐ Brighton Le Sands
- ☐ Carlton
- ☐ Dolls Point
- ☐ Kingsgrove
- ☐ Kogarah
- ☐ Kyeemagh
- ☐ Monterey
- ☐ Ramsgate
- ☐ Ramsgate Beach
- ☐ Rockdale
- ☐ Sandringham
- ☐ Sans Souci
- ☐ Turella
- ☐ Wolli Creek

APPENDIX C ROCKDALE CITY'S FUTURE INFORMATION BROCHURE

FitfortheFuture



ROCKDALE CITY'S FUTURE



The NSW Government has proposed a number of changes for local councils as part of its Fit for the Future reform agenda including reducing the number of councils through voluntary amalgamations.

NSW councils are being asked to consider the State Government's proposed reform program for local government - Fit for the Future. Council is obliged to carefully consider the options for Rockdale City and prepare a submission by 30 June 2015.

PAG. 1

"Council is approaching Fit for the Future with an open mind and we are considering all options that do not disadvantage our residents. I encourage all members of our community to take a moment and look through the options and extensive information in this document. We seek your feedback on the future of our City before we formulate our response to the State Government."

Mayor Shane O'Brien, April 2015.



What is Fit for the Future?

The Fit for the Future Program follows a Review of Local Government carried out over several months by an Independent Review Panel. In its final report the Panel made a series of recommendations designed to strengthen local government in NSW. A reduction in the total number of councils in NSW through voluntary amalgamations was one of the recommendations.

For more information visit:

www.olg.nsw.gov.au/strengthening-local-government/local-government-reform

What if we do nothing?

In announcing the Fit for the Future review program, the Minister for Local Government has made it clear that doing nothing is not an option for councils. If we do nothing, the NSW Government may make a decision without Council's or our community's involvement.

It is in our community's best interest to seriously consider all options for Rockdale City and respond to the NSW Government.

What is Council doing about it?

Council is taking a proactive approach, developing options that will meet the Fit for the Future requirements and be in the best interests of our community and organisation.

We have begun work on our Fit for the Future response by looking at all the potential options for our Local Government Area and talking with our neighbouring councils.

We have engaged external consultants (Morrison Low) to do an independent assessment of the viability of each option, and prepare an overview of what each option might look like for Rockdale City. The results have been used to inform the description of the options in this brochure.

The complete Morrison Low reports are available at www.rockdale.nsw.gov.au/OurFuture

If after considering all options Council decides to put forward a 'standalone' proposal, we will need to demonstrate how Council can build on our already strong financial position to ensure we are Fit for the Future. Independent assessment of Rockdale has concluded that we can make "a valid argument that we meet the scale and capacity tests standing alone" (Morrison Low 2015).

Consider Our Options
November 2014 to March 2015

Inform Our Community
February 2015 onwards

Engage Our Community
April 2015

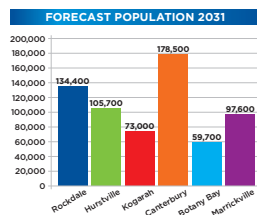
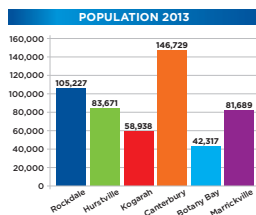
Consider Community Feedback
May 2015

PAG. 2

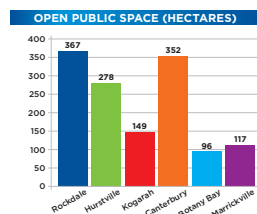
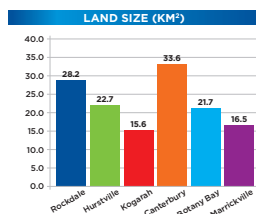
Snapshot of Rockdale City and our neighbours*

If Rockdale City was to amalgamate, it would be with one or more of our neighbours. The following graphs provide a picture of each of these councils as they are today.

People



Places



*Data sourced from Comparative Data 2012-2013 Office of Local Government NSW

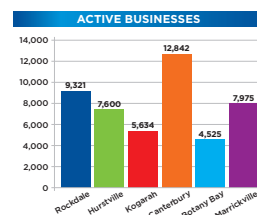
Decide on Our Response to NSW Government
May 2015

Submit Fit For the Future Response
June 2015

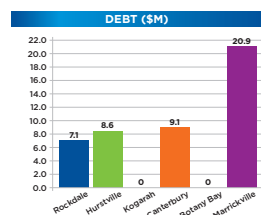
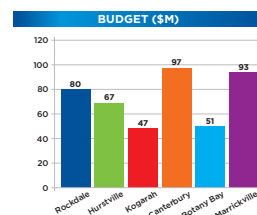
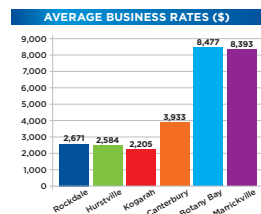
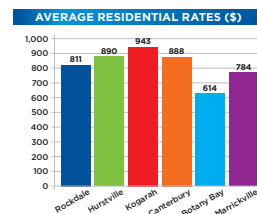
Update Our Community
July 2015

PAG. 3

Businesses



Financial



PAG. 4

APPENDIX C ROCKDALE CITY'S FUTURE INFORMATION BROCHURE

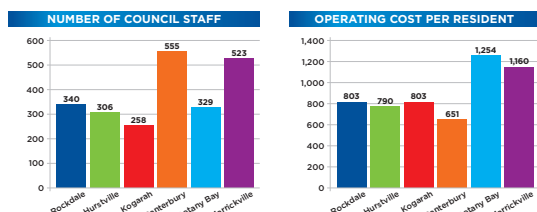
Councillors

Currently the number of elected Councillors for any Council area can range from 5 to 15. Each Council sets its own number of Councillors. If we were to amalgamate with any of our neighbours there would be significantly more residents for each Councillor than today.



Services

The range of services and facilities provided by any Council to its community varies and is usually based on community needs, funding availability and strategic business choices. The cost of delivering these services also can vary between Council areas.



OPTION

Rockdale City Standalone

An Independent Assessment Report for Rockdale City has concluded that we can make "a valid argument that we meet scale and capacity tests standing alone".

Morrison Low 2015



Overview

Characteristic	Rockdale
2013 Population	105,227
Land size (km ²)	28.2
Budget	\$79.7M
Debt	\$7.2M
Operating cost per resident	\$803
Average ordinary residential rates	\$811
Average ordinary business rates	\$2,671
Staff	340
Councillors	15
Population per Councillor	7,015

Comparative Data 2012-2013 Office of Local Government NSW

Things to Consider

- Rockdale City currently has the largest population amongst our neighbouring councils (excluding Canterbury).
- Overall community satisfaction with Council is 86% (Customer Satisfaction Survey 2013).
- Programmed asset upgrades and major projects (Rockdale City Library, Aquatic Centre and Youth Centre) will remain a delivery priority.
- Fit for the Future benchmarks will need to be met through an Improvement Action Plan.

✓ Rates unchanged.	✓ Local identity and representation remains the same.	✓ Services and service level unchanged.	✗ Does not meet State Government's Fit for the Future requirements (population size).
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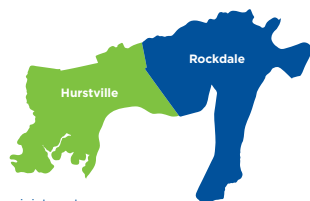
PAG. 6

OPTION

Rockdale + Hurstville Council

"A modest sized Council, already sharing a joint waste initiative service, however does not meet the requirements of the Government's Fit for the Future Program".

Morrison Low 2015



Overview

Characteristic	Rockdale	Rockdale + Hurstville
2013 Population	105,227	188,898
Land size (km ²)	28.2	50.9
Budget	\$79.7M	\$146.7M
Debt	\$7.2M	\$15.8M
Operating cost per resident	\$803	\$797
Average ordinary residential rates	\$811	\$845
Average ordinary business rates	\$2,671	\$2,623
Staff	340	646
Councillors	15	15*
Population per Councillor	7,015	12,593

Comparative Data 2012-2013 Office of Local Government NSW
*The Local Government Act 1993 states a maximum of 15 Councillors per Council

Things to Consider

- The boundary between Hurstville and Rockdale Local Government Areas currently cuts through the suburb of Kingsgrove.
- People from Hurstville currently travel to work in Kogarah, Rockdale and the City of Sydney.
- The cultural diversity of communities in Rockdale and Hurstville is similar.

✓ Residential and business rates remain steady or increase marginally.	✗ Increased number of residents per Councillor.	✗ Changes to services and levels of service.	✓ Almost meets the State Government's Fit for the Future requirements by 2031 (population size).
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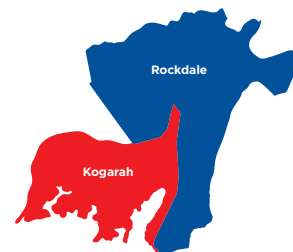
PAG. 7

OPTION

Rockdale + Kogarah Council

"A modest sized Council, already sharing a joint waste initiative service, however does not meet the requirements of the Government's Fit for the Future Program".

Morrison Low 2015



Overview

Characteristic	Rockdale	Rockdale + Kogarah
2013 Population	105,227	165,009
Land size (km ²)	28.2	43.8
Budget	\$79.7M	\$126.8M
Debt	\$7.2M	\$7.2M
Operating cost per resident	\$803	\$803
Average ordinary residential rates	\$811	\$858
Average ordinary business rates	\$2,671	\$2,481
Staff	340	598
Councillors	15	15*
Population per Councillor	7,015	11,001

Comparative Data 2012-2013 Office of Local Government NSW
*The Local Government Act 1993 states a maximum of 15 Councillors per Council

Things to Consider

- The Local Government Area boundary currently separates the suburbs of Sans Souci and Ramsgate along either side of Rocky Point Road.
- Kogarah has the highest average residential rate of all the neighbouring councils and Rockdale has the lowest average residential rate of all the neighbouring councils.
- The cultural diversity of communities in Rockdale and Kogarah is similar.
- People from Kogarah work in the Inner City.

✓ Residential and business rates remain steady.	✗ Increased number of residents per Councillor.	✗ Changes to services and levels of service.	✓ Almost meets the State Government's Fit for the Future requirements by 2031 (population size).
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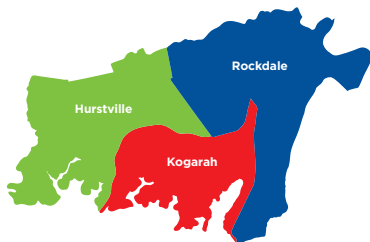
PAG. 8

APPENDIX C ROCKDALE CITY'S FUTURE INFORMATION BROCHURE

OPTION

St George Council

With a population of more than 240,000 residents, there is commonality across combined communities of interest, including the established local regional identity of St George.



Overview

Characteristic	Rockdale	St George
2013 Population	105,227	248,680
Land size (km ²)	28.2	66.5
Budget	\$79.7M	\$193.7M
Debt	\$7.2M	\$15.8M
Operating cost per resident	\$803	\$798
Average ordinary residential rates	\$811	\$869
Average ordinary business rates	\$2,671	\$2,525
Staff	340	904
Councillors	15	15*
Population per Councillor	7,015	16,579

Comparative Data 2012-2013 Office of Local Government NSW
*The Local Government Act 1993 states a maximum of 15 Councillors per Council

Things to Consider

- ♦ The new council would be home to almost 6% of the population of the entire Sydney area.
- ♦ The cultural diversity of communities is similar.
- ♦ There is a strong connection and identity with St George - considered a natural grouping of councils.
- ♦ The new council comes under the same sub-region for planning purposes.



Residential and business rates remain steady.



Significantly increased number of residents per Councillor.



Changes to services and levels of service.



Meets the State Government's Fit for the Future requirements (population size).

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OPTION

St George + Canterbury Council

With a population of more than 390,000 residents, this Council would be one of the largest in the Sydney metropolitan area.



Overview

Characteristic	Rockdale	St George + Canterbury
2013 Population	105,227	395,409
Land size (km ²)	28.2	100.1
Budget	\$79.7M	\$290.4M
Debt	\$7.2M	\$24.9M
Operating cost per resident	\$803	\$744
Average ordinary residential rates	\$811	\$875
Average ordinary business rates	\$2,671	\$3,022
Staff	340	1,459
Councillors	15	15*
Population per Councillor	7,015	26,361

Comparative Data 2012-2013 Office of Local Government NSW
*The Local Government Act 1993 states a maximum of 15 Councillors per Council

Things to Consider

- ♦ The new council would be home to almost 9% of the population of the entire Sydney area, growing to 491,600 by 2031.
- ♦ The average residential rate and the average business rate would increase. The key driver for this would be land value.
- ♦ Canterbury has a negative financial outlook (NSW Treasury, 2013).
- ♦ Canterbury has some connection to St George and also has links with Bankstown.



Residential and business rates increase.



Significantly increased number of residents per Councillor.



Changes to services and levels of service.



Meets the State Government's Fit for the Future requirements (population size).

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OPTION

Bayside / Airport Council

"Key transport infrastructure such as Airports and Ports, should be within the same local government area".

Independent Local Government Review
November 2012



Overview

Characteristic	Rockdale	Bayside / Airport
2013 Population	105,227	229,233
Land size (km ²)	28.2	66.4
Budget	\$79.7M	\$223.3M
Debt	\$7.2M	\$28.1M
Operating cost per resident	\$803	\$1,013
Average ordinary residential rates	\$811	\$767
Average ordinary business rates	\$2,671	\$6,585
Staff	340	1,192
Councillors	15	15*
Population per Councillor	7,015	15,282

Comparative Data 2012-2013 Office of Local Government NSW
*The Local Government Act 1993 states a maximum of 15 Councillors per Council

Things to Consider

- ♦ This is the only option that ensures income from the Airport remains in the Rockdale area.
- ♦ The new council would be home to almost 6% of the population of the entire Sydney area.
- ♦ Stronger voice to advocate on behalf of residents regarding the Sydney Airport.
- ♦ Does not meet financial sustainability or financial outlook assessments.



Residential rates remain steady. Business rates increase significantly.



Significantly increased number of residents per Councillor.



Changes to services and levels of service.



Meets the State Government's Fit for the Future requirements by 2031 (population size).

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Council Hour with the Mayor & GM

Mayor Shane O'Brien and our General Manager Meredith Wallace will be available to discuss any aspects of the Fit for the Future over the coming weeks.

Please come to one of the following locations to find out more.

Arncliffe Friday 17 April, 7am - 8:30am
Arncliffe Train Station, Fifth Street

Kingsgrove Tuesday 21 April, 4:30pm - 6pm
Corner of Shaw and Kingsgrove Roads

Rockdale Thursday 23 April, 5:30pm - 7pm
Rockdale Plaza, 1 Rockdale Plaza Drive

Ramsgate Saturday 2 May, 8:30am - 10am
Ramsgate Organic Market (Ramsgate Public School), Chuter Avenue

Bexley Saturday 2 May, 10:30am - 12 noon
Bexley Community Centre, 405 Bexley Road

Get involved in Rockdale's future

Community opinion will be one of the contributing factors in our response to the State Government. A merger can only be proposed if a neighbouring Council agrees to merge with Rockdale City Council and we believe that this merger is in the best interests of our residents.

We encourage all residents, ratepayers and people who work in the Rockdale City area to participate in this very important process.

Complete the survey online at www.rockdale.nsw.gov.au/OurFuture

OR
Complete and return the enclosed survey (no stamp required) to Council by Friday 8 May 2015

More information

Telephone 9562 1858

Website www.rockdale.nsw.gov.au/OurFuture

To register your interest in staying informed and/or involved email your name and daytime phone number to ourfuture@rockdale.nsw.gov.au



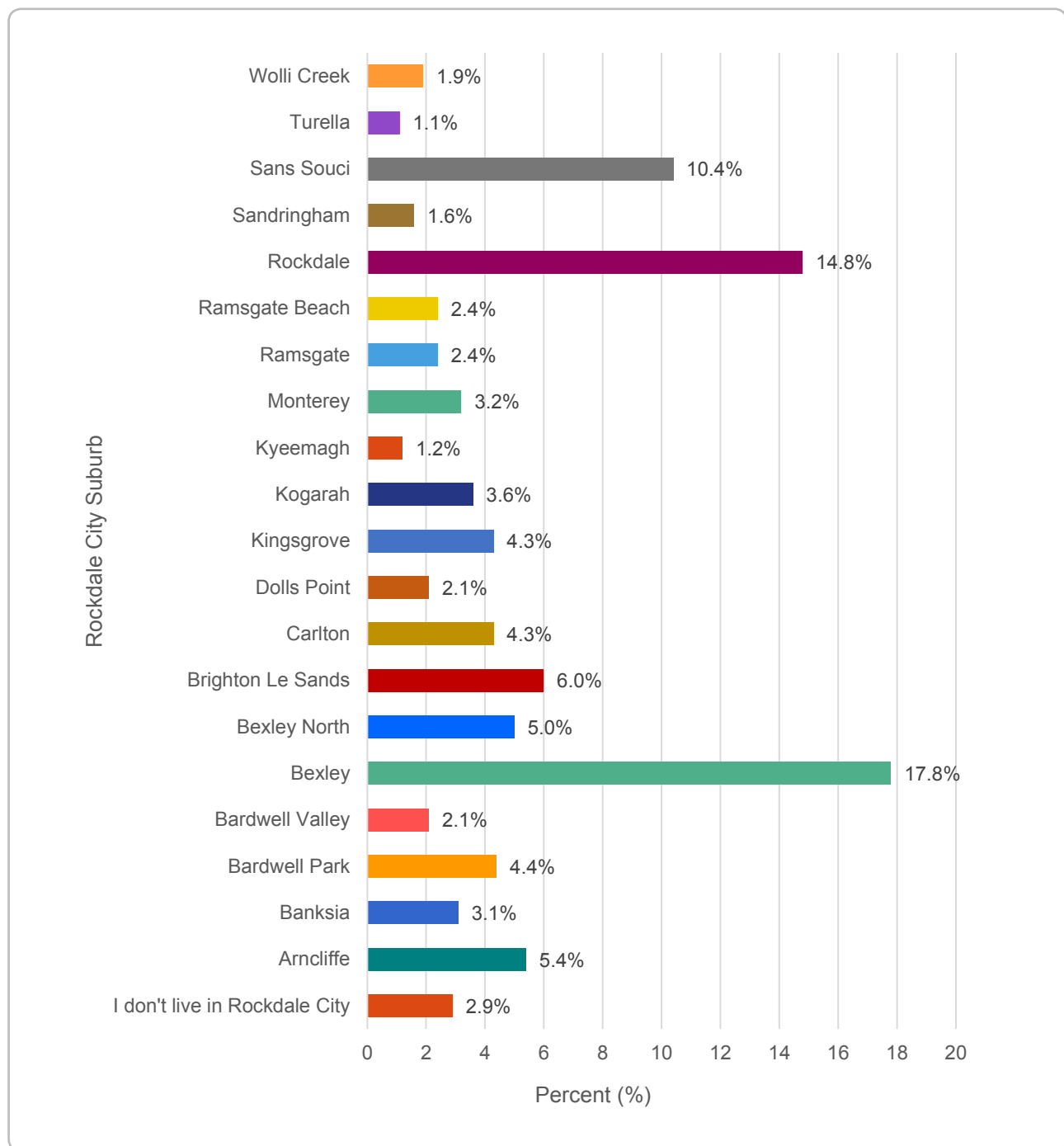
Telephone Interpreter Services - 131 450
خدمة الترجمة الهاتفية
電話傳譯服務處
Servizio telefonico interpreti
Τηλεφωνικές Υπηρεσίες Διερμηνέων
Служба за преводавање по телефон



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APPENDIX D

RESPONDENTS SUBURB OF ORIGIN



APPENDIX E

OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONSIDERATIONS FOR EACH OPTION

The following includes all the comments provided by respondents in explanation of the option they chose as their Option 1.

Reasons given for Why Rockdale City Council should Stand-alone

- 1. Better representation and more effective local participation.
2. St George has a pre-established regional ethos.
- 1. Rockdale council performs well with reasonable operating costs per resident.
2. Merging with Kogarah keeps the same operating cost per resident with a reasonable increase in residential rates. It does not increase the council debt.
- 1. Small is good.
2. More opportunity to participate as councillors.
3. No apparent case for amalgamation.
- 1. Rockdale may have and had faults but is a better council.
2. So (we) still control of Airport and revenue.
- 1. I agree with Morrison Law.
2. Agree with Morrison Law.
- 1st Preference - The Independent Assessment Report accepts that Rockdale City has valid reasons to argue to remain a stand-alone council. Has rezoning, increasing high density areas, high rise developments currently being constructed and approved DAs (yet to be started) been taken into account when considering the state government's required population size? Current and proposed high density developments in Wolli Creek, Ramsgate, Arncliffe and Rockdale suggest substantial population growth in the near future.
2nd preference - Bayside/Airport Council would see three councils connected by some common factors, the airport and Port Botany. The residents of these councils, Marrickville and Rockdale in particular, are affected by the noise, pollution and traffic generated by the airport and therefore should be compensated by receiving a share of the income (through rates/taxes) from that business. Botany Bay and Rockdale Councils have the foreshore in common. Port Botany and the airport runways have had a huge impact on the Bay. They have contributed to erosion and damage of the foreshore which has had a financial impact on the residents of Rockdale, namely maintenance and restoration of the recreational and open green space component of the foreshore. The lifestyle of the residents in these councils is also affected by the traffic, pollution and noise of ever increasing numbers of huge trucks going to and from Port Botany. These three councils are connected by common threads, the airport and Port Botany.
- 2 = Control of 2/3 of Botany Bay.
- 3 councils will be stronger.
- Additional expenses will be created due to merge. Council will not be able to handle extra larger workload and problems.
- Aircraft noise and no fees for beach parking.
- Airport + Port Botany within council for revenue generation.
- All adjoin, all on same railway line, all concerned with access to south.
- All other options seem to impact service levels negatively.
- Amalgamates similar geographic/business locations.
- Amalgamating makes area too large to handle, too many development applications to consider, taking much longer time.
- Amalgamation is too much power in too few hands.

APPENDIX E

OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONSIDERATIONS FOR EACH OPTION

- Amalgamation with any other councils will take 'the eye off the ball' and the 'ball' is our wonderful area within Rockdale Council boundaries.
- Amalgamations with other councils will mean council job losses leading to less services to the community.
- Amalgamations, less service for households. Plus less staff.
- Amalgamations, more bureaucracy.
- Appear to be the best option.
- Areas will be too big - quieter areas will suffer.
- As it is. Your people are doing a wonderful job. Thanks.
- As Rockdale develops more units the area is growing.
- As there could be more of a focus in the Rockdale area than the 'greater' area.
- At present satisfied at this present time.
- Because council considers us all.
- Because I did.
- Because I live in the area.
- Because I'm sensible.
- Because it 'aint broke, so don't fit it'. Why should our state politicians tell us ratepayers and voters we have to amalgamate?
- Because it's going to be a shit fit and people are going to lose their jobs.
- Because none of the councils have looked after their own natural resources properly. Botany Bay has been neglected so badly & contemptuous that not only has it caused the death of a child, but OH&S standards are extremely poor. The beaches are in a sad state, NO GPT's installed for drainage onto the beach areas, NO monitoring of developments, including containment of wastes onsite which has caused major drain blockages at Banksia, overflow of polluted water from waste transfer station, incredibly poor standards for council structures including foreshore toilets, beach fencing & rock piling along foreshore. Weed growth is unchecked, parkland & other open spaces have been sold off to private ventures.
- Because rates, local identity and representation, services and service level unchanged.
- Because Rockdale looks very down need improvement.
- Because service from Council has been good.
- Because they are doing a great job.
- Because they're close to us and we share common infrastructure and services.
- Because we have a larger rubbish bins.
- Because we voted and got our labour candidate in.
- Because we would have to carry the other councils.
- Because with the data provides it ticks 3 out of 4 of the boxes.
- Been with Rockdale over 50yrs no complaints.
- Best for our City.
- Best for our community and Rockdale City Council.
- Best forecast for 'things to consider'.

APPENDIX E

OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONSIDERATIONS FOR EACH OPTION

- Better for Rockdale council stand-alone.
- Better presentation currently.
- Better service when there is only ONE group to consider.
- Better services.
- Better services, lower rates.
- Better the devil you know than the devil you don't.
- Better this way.
- Big councils do less work.
- Big is not necessarily better.
- Bigger is not better, look what over populating our area has done to over development of housing are.
- Bigger is not necessarily better, can be difficult to access councillors or staff.
- Both progressive.
- Can't think of any reason not to.
- Compact area, good size councils. Rockdale & Kogarah.
- Concern over changes in service levels. No major advantage in amalgamations.
- Convenience.
- Council is running well as is why change a good thing.
- Council needs to serve the people: smaller enables this to happen better.
- Council numbers.
- Council operates efficiently. Access to councillors.
- Council provides good service scale does not-quality or cheap.
- Council should make independent decisions for the community.
- Councils are community, the more it is amalgamation pro. the less voice we have.
- Cultural diversity similar and bring boundaries into line.
- Current population is being well catered for.
- Current Rockdale size is good and manageable with great improved service. Reasonable amalgamation, similar and manageable rates and logical.
- Despite all the RHETORK about amalgamations there is NEVER any savings or benefits.
- Do not Merge - nothing gets done now so it won't be better.
- Do not see ANY advantage in merging.
- Do not want anything to do with Hurstville, Canterbury or Marrickville councils.
- Do not want increased rates.
- Do not want other councils debts.
- Do not want to amalgamate because other councils have different priorities.
- Doing good job now.
- Doing well dealing with relevant, local community.

APPENDIX E

OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONSIDERATIONS FOR EACH OPTION

- Don't change what works correctly.
- Don't want to pay rate increase.
- Don't want to share council resources.
- Each option would be too large.
- Either stand-alone or keep Botany Bay as we are totally affected by airport and container ports, pollution and traffic problems.
- Either to maintain Status Quo or at least get best economic option.
- Extra expenses created due to merging. Council will not be able to cope with extra workload.
- Firstly, I received my brochure on 27/4/15. The meeting area in Rockdale was on 23/4/15 (gone). I then went to Chuter Ave meet at the markets, however I did not find that very informative. I believe it is such an important issue and how can I vote if I do not understand, so hence I have not put any preference forward. I could go on. The net as I have had no phone line or internet for nearly 3 weeks and still no landline and internet (wet weather).
- Focus on local issues.
- For improvement program.
- From information provided it appears best option.
- Geographically it would be the best amalgamation if amalgamation is forced upon councils. Amalgamations take the local out of Local Government with adverse changes to services and levels of service.
- Good council.
- Good service.
- Great Council doing a great job.
- Greater focus on local issues, services offered.
- Growth, population, needs building, new airport-accumulated debt other councils, less work run.
- Guarantee is better.
- Happy with current arrangements. Not clear what benefits change will bring.
- Happy with job Council do for us.
- Happy with Rockdale as it is. Merge with Kogarah is least objectionable.
- Happy with Rockdale council.
- Happy with Rockdale, if changes happy would think St George Council would be best option - right size.
- Happy with services and costs.
- Happy with status quo.
- Happy with the service.
- Happy with the standard at the moment.
- Happy with the way things are (no over development of units).
- Happy with this option.
- Has been this way forever, and I like it.
- Has the least negative consequences of all the options.

APPENDIX E

OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONSIDERATIONS FOR EACH OPTION

- Have no problem with service.
- Having been through council amalgamations in Queensland, it is expensive, disruptive and pointless. It does not increase efficiency and it does not decrease costs.
- Having lived in Arncliffe for 38 years, I would like to see local identity, representation, services and service level remain good.
- History shows that merger creating large Government organisation and create more inefficiencies and problems for the public.
- [REDACTED] dirty.
- I agree with you 'things to consider' list in the brochure.
- I am basically happy with the status quo, the development of the area and the services provided although I would prefer to see less debt and concomitant interest payments.
- I am happy with current council, Brighton Beach is a show piece.
- I am happy with Rockdale City Council's performance.
- I am happy with the services provided by Rockdale Council, particularly quarterly council clean ups.
- I am not too impressed with lack of smoking controls from the [REDACTED] Council.
- I am opposed to council merger unless a council is irreparably, financially unstable.
- I am strongly against amalgamations.
- I believe a smaller area is more easily provided for by council.
- I believe smaller councils give the individual residents more of a voice. I think Rockdale Council has been concerned with community interests. A merger with Kogarah Council would be acceptable and enhance our St George identity.
- I believe that the public space of Rockdale would be eroded if there was amalgamation with other neighbouring councils.
- I chose this option as Rockdale and Kogarah already share similar areas and are divided by opposite sides of the road and it can be confusing as to which area some parks or streets belong to.
- I consider it the best option when compared to other councils.
- I do not agree with making councils bigger as it may make it easier for the government but we lose the feeling of a community and we become one of many.
- I do not want Rockdale to look like [REDACTED] The place is a mess.
- I don't think we should merge at all. It is an expensive exercise.
- I don't want there to be a merge.
- I don't wish to see a merger of most councils (just the smaller ones) Kogarah & Rockdale are similar in demographics.
- I feel Rockdale Council should stay the same but IF we have to I would prefer just Hurstville Council be involved.
- I like Rockdale council and the way it provides services in part cleanups.
- I like the Council where I live.
- I like the projects Rockdale are undertaking to upgrade the library, etc. The St. George Councils have ethnic and historical ties and similar political interests.

APPENDIX E

OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONSIDERATIONS FOR EACH OPTION

- I live in a pocket of Bexley that is close to Kogarah therefore, to me, Rockdale and Kogarah are the most obvious as we're close neighbours and already share some facilities and services. It's a shame that an amalgamation of Rockdale, Kogarah and Botany Bay Councils was not offered so that the Airport was included in one Council.
- I live in Banksia-Rockdale 25yrs. Rockdale is a quiet high class suburbs. People of different culture but UNITED AS ONE. Though it needs more improvement, Rockdale became a well known City and I am proud to be part of this area.
- I live in Kogarah and ratepayer at Rockdale-commercial builders.
- I need to know the financial status of all the councils mentioned to make a learned judgment, why should we pay for others mistakes?
- We cannot get the appropriate services from the council at present, what hope is there when we are combined with other wit no interest in our area?
- I prefer an independent council.
- I prefer the rats to be stable.
- I see no benefits from merging. In fact many disadvantages.
- I think it is a total waste of State government money to amalgamate Councils, so therefore think Rockdale should stand-alone.
- I think it is the best option.
- I think our council is doing a good job.
- I think Rockdale City Council is perfect as a stand-alone council.
- I think Rockdale with a continuous improvement program can be its own identity.
- I think that generally speaking (opt 1) bigger is not necessarily better.
- I think that it is very important to keep the airport together and the Port Botany. Rockdale (Brighton), Cook Park, Grand Parade, West Botany Street and more have a direct connection to people arriving from the airport. We get the traffic, the noise and are one of the first points of call for people leaving the airport.
- Rockdale has more in common with Marrickville than the St George councils. Wolli Creek, Arncliffe are more central, modern and developing areas.
- I think we should stand-alone because as is the area is kept in good condition, roads, parks, etc. I want my rates to keep my area and not other areas in good condition which they do not now. Go for the valid argument. Stand-alone.
- I want Rockdale Council to stay as it is with the Improvement Program implemented.
- I would prefer no change to a system I am familiar with and 'works for me' and my family. If amalgamation is unavoidable, the links with Marrickville and Botany offer both environmental and economic dimensions to the merger with Rockdale.
- I would prefer Rockdale Council to Stand-alone mainly due to the income derived from the Airport if not Kogarah area our neighbours.
- I, why change Rockdale? Historically, St George area councils.
- If a merger occurs, this seems to be the most natural, fulfilling the requirements of State Government and having some historical links and continuity.
- If amalgamation takes place prefer St George Council rather than other options.
- If it ain't broke don't fix it other than Canterbury, the figures generally favour Rockdale.

APPENDIX E

OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONSIDERATIONS FOR EACH OPTION

- If merge takes place, Airport and Port Botany revenue stays with us.
- If merged: to keep Bay Councils together i.e. Botany & Rockdale.
- If the bigger council means more rate, why don't we keep small and efficient.
- If we are strong enough to stand-alone - this opportunity will inspire Council to improve its overall management and can concentrate on beautifying and improving the LGA overall. I believe Council could do a lot more proactive work to raise the bar. If, instead, we need to amalgamate, Kogarah would be the best option as we are very similar in most aspects of community lifestyle and needs.
- If you go bigger it will be worst get lost in the system.
- I'm not convinced by the efficiencies proposed by merging councils. Rockdale Council (with an Improvement Program) is my preferred option. I feel the Council has come a long way in a relatively short space of time through actively engaging the community in a transparent way e.g.. rate levy increase to fund projects - which are being completed. My second option was the merge of Bayside/Airport Councils due to their proximity and leverage on the Sydney Airport Corporation as a single block to ensure councils are remunerated appropriately for effects of having the airport in their precinct.
- Improvement on existing services, within existing structure.
- Incur too many complications and costs with other options.
- Is serving the community well. Why change to something that may not.
- It appears to be a viable and safe option.
- It does not entail huge changes in services and costs to rate payers.
- It has the most advantage for current residents.
- It is a council that function well as it is.
- It is doing well now, why change?
- It is my observation that Councils already co-operate to keep costs down for property owners. I own properties in both Hurstville & Rockdale (among others).
- It is the best run council in Sydney and the nicest.
- It makes the most financial sense.
- It seems amalgamations are on the political agenda. This option retains the 'St George' identity.
- It seems the State Government is the main advocate for amalgamation.
- It will be better for resident. Now is good. I think keep it. Don't change anything. Thanks a lot.
- It will be too congested and too much workload if merged.
- It works well.
- It's better for Rockdale City Stand-alone.
- It's costly to join another council.
- It's doing a good job now why change.
- It's hard as it is at the moment to keep up with one area if amalgamate, it will just cause more delays in all aspects.
- Just do your best.

APPENDIX E

OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONSIDERATIONS FOR EACH OPTION

- Keep council local.
- Kogarah is too small to survive future thus broadening its population. Similarly, adjacent suburbs, the location appears balance.
- Large councils cannot provide good service.
- Least debt to cover.
- Least impact on rates paid by residents.
- Leave it alone.
- Leave Rockdale alone.
- Leave well alone, let our suburbs exist as villages.
- Less area for management/council to run, therefore things will get done.
- Less debt and less effect on rates.
- Less of local identity is a big concern.
- Like Rockdale Council as is, but to merge 3 as St George would be good too.
- Like the independence of standing alone.
- Local council, local issues.
- Local councils are meant to be proportionate to size.
- Local Government should be as close to the people as possible. Bigger more out of touch.
- Local Identity. A small efficient household is better run and less complicated than a large one.
- Local issues.
- Location and accessibility of current Rockdale Council is excellent.
- Looking at the figures Rockdale is better off on its own e.g. debt, etc.
- Lose individuality, less focus on Rockdale issues.
- low debt and population per councillor, easier for you to manage and it means attention can be diverted to areas that need it the most.
- Lower rates (residential/business).
- Maintain service to community at reasonable level.
- Maybe the rate might go up and I am happy with the service.
- Merging with Kogarah, whilst not ideal, is preferable to Hurstville.
- Minimum residential rates.
- More ratepayer involvement and voice.
- More stable Council.
- More ticks-seems to be doing well on its own, also low costs for resident/business rates.
- Morrison Law 2015 has most tick in this assessment.
 - * I like every section for Rockdale on the graphs given.
 - * Do not like Kogarah high rise on Princess Highway.
 - * Do not like Hurstville [REDACTED] too big for us to go in with, do not feel I know anyone in Hurstville (I know 2 [REDACTED] family).

APPENDIX E

OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONSIDERATIONS FOR EACH OPTION

- My first preference would be for Rockdale to stand-alone, but if they are forced to amalgamate then the best choice would be Kogarah and at a stretch Hurstville also. This would be the most logical as they are all in the St George area. I think that the worst option would be a merge with Canterbury. It is not a feasible option because the demographics of the area are significantly different to Rockdale and I don't think that Rockdale would gain any benefit from this merger.
- My first preference would be to stay as we are but I do feel Rockdale Council needs to lift their game. If there is no choice then I would opt to become part of Bayside/Airport Council. I have always considered the Marrickville Council attitude and action on rubbish dumping, dog exercising of leash areas and their basic ethos to be more in line with my thinking.
- My first option is, because I am happy the way Rockdale Council is operating, i.e. services such as collection.
- My preference is for Rockdale to remain stand-alone, however my 2nd option would be to amalgamate with Kogarah, as it's our immediate neighbour. The other councils are further away, and adding any more to Rockdale and Kogarah will make it far too large, and I expect the efficiencies will be lost.
- No advantage in amalgamation, only losses.
- No advantage to combining with another area-backward more.
- No advantages to merge. If merge essential, St George area makes most sense.
- No change to business rates and services.
- No change to services. Amalgamation with Kogarah is the second option due to the geography and that Council has no debt.
- No changes to rates or services.
- No fee/rates changes.
- No gain.
- No guarantee we will be better off.
- No information given as to the financial situation of the other councils in the survey to make a learned decision.
- No merging not needed.
- No need to change.
- Not a good idea.
- Not to inherit any debt.
- Nothing good can come from merging.
- Obviously the most intrinsic value for residents.
- Once we amalgamate, we going to be too large, which will bring a lot of problems.
- One council alone has more say.
- Only change for the better I don't think merger of councils is a good idea. All council areas shown are covering huge areas and I feel our current good services will not be as good.
- Only option which does not change services & service level.
- Opt 1 - probably a non goer. Opt 2 - preserves community of interest.
- Opt 1 & 2 can work.

APPENDIX E

OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONSIDERATIONS FOR EACH OPTION

- Opt 1 maintains status quo - a re-office of consolidating and building on what has been achieved to meet the Fit for the Future requirements. Opt 2 is preferred if amalgamation has to take place-because there is commonality across the 3 council areas in many aspects, cultural, planning.
- Ordinary residential rates-lower than others.
- Our community is happy with the council of Rockdale.
- Own identity is important, however must work with airport councils to advocate to Government for better transport.
- Play alone no one will upset you.
- Population is growing anyway in Rockdale e.g. a lot of units being built.
- Prefer Bayside/Airport council.
- Prefer our current services to those or nearby councils.
- Prefer to keep local councils.
- Prefer to keep the Status Quo.
- Prefer to remain alone. If amalgamated greater through possibilities Opt 2.
- Proud to live in Rockdale.
- Provide good amenities. A natural bonding.
- Rates are steady. Have had no problem with council so far. Amalgamation with Kogarah would be acceptable.
- Rates unchanged.
- Rates would remain unchanged or steady and the debt would be manageable.
- Rates, identity and services would remain unchanged while with any amalgamation these would change for the worse. The second preference is due to the two Council's lower debts. If forced to amalgamate due to population requirements the St George Council would be the preferred one.
- Reading about the inability to listen to local citizens of councillors-big is not best-more negativity.
- Reduced costs and rates.
- Residential rates acceptable for both options.
- Residential rates remaining steady or unchanged.
- Retain local identity, maintain service levels, no rate increase.
- Retain representation and interests that meet the needs of the local community. Larger councils might as well lead to Regional councils and abolish of State Governments.
- Retain Status Quo with improvement is an easy option as we are happy, but merging to perform a bayside council is a natural fit.
- Rockdale & Kogarah seem to have less debts, etc.
- Rockdale already well managed.
- Rockdale can be fit for the future by itself. Rockdale and Kogarah currently have boundaries that do not make sense. A boundary adjustment would be sensible.
- Rockdale can't take on any more as they can't look after what they have.

APPENDIX E

OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONSIDERATIONS FOR EACH OPTION

- Rockdale City area and population is an optimum size to property manage.
- Rockdale Council appears to be caring for the Rockdale area well. Marrickville and Botany Bay would be preferable to other areas such as Canterbury and Hurstville.
- Rockdale council does a good job in our area. Hurstville is close, can look in our area as well.
- Rockdale council does a very good job.
- Rockdale council has better control of service levels and rates as well as representation by its councillors. Rockdale will also retain its local identity as a stand-alone council. The maximum fifteen councillors represent Rockdale - by merging with one or more other councils, less representation per head of population loses control on many levels.
- Rockdale Council is a 'go ahead' Council, very, very helpful.
- Rockdale council is doing a great job why change it.
- Rockdale Council is doing an excellent job. If need be Hurstville & Kogarah can merge and Marrickville & Botany Bay can merge.
- Rockdale Council is large enough, as is, to service ratepayers.
- Rockdale council is quite well run and appear to work within a budget.
- Rockdale council is running excellent activities. Better to concentrate in our area.
- Rockdale Council is very satisfactory.
- Rockdale Council listens to the constituent's concerns.
- Rockdale council needs to improve its 'ACT'!!!
- Rockdale doing fine on its own.
- Rockdale has a very well run council and could be again if they stopped fighting and got on with the job.
- Rockdale has always been satisfactory to me.
- Rockdale has been able to stand-alone and I hope it continues.
- Rockdale has more nature areas to budget for.
- Rockdale has provided great service why change.
- Rockdale has the most open public space. Keep developers off this land.
- Rockdale is a good council.
- Rockdale is a well run and has its finances in order.
- Rockdale is big enough to stand-alone.
- Rockdale is going to become much larger.
- Rockdale is in a good financial state.
- Rockdale is strongest by standing alone. Better service and approachable by locals.
- Rockdale needs to improve council services before amalgamations. Rubbish in streets, illegal dumping of rubbish, Brighton has rubbish on the walk path and beach.
- Rockdale operates well at the moment, if must merge Kogarah & Hurstville are the obvious fit.
- Rockdale population and diversity increasing, other options seem like too much area to be covered effectively.

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OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONSIDERATIONS FOR EACH OPTION

- Rockdale relatively strong budget, don't want to lose open space, low debt. Amalgamate with Hurstville could be option.
- Rockdale seems to be managing ok, other councils will bring more problems.
- Rockdale serves community well if merger must happen, Kogarah is logical, Rockdale will serve Kogarah.
- Rockdale services and rate charges help me as a pensioner.
- Rockdale should retain its identity.
- Rockdale Stand-alone best, Rockdale & Kogarah - no debt increase.
- Rockdale, renovated town hall, new library and pool coming. Ratepayers should enjoy benefit.
- Satisfaction.
- Satisfactory.
- Satisfactory now.
- Satisfied with council performance to date and this program recommended by Morrison Low.
- Satisfy for overall.
- Satisfy with Rockdale City Council. [REDACTED] Council should be ashamed of their performance. Two major hospitals many day surgeries and medical specialists, etc and no parking adequate to requirements. Also, shopping in Railway Parade a nightmare because of lack of parking. Unhappy about their over development and development plans for the future.
- Seems better.
- Service standards are better.
- Services already at a high standard 85% no job losses.
- Services and service levels unchanged.
- Services are satisfactory now.
- Services barely meet needs of residents now.
- Services, budget and cost.
- Should not share with the other councils that are in too much debt, that's their problem.
- Similar area, population diversity similar, shared bay, businesses similar, not too big- allows for individuality of council area needs (not lumped together).
- Similar characteristics.
- Size, population and debts councillor ratio.
- Small council is easy to run.
- Small is best. Every locality/district has its unique identity and it is vital that the council's responsible, deal with only its specific requirements, which may differ from those of other localities.
- Smaller council provides better service.
- Smaller councils, more concentrated/efficient services.
- Smaller seems more able to be closer to citizens.

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OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONSIDERATIONS FOR EACH OPTION

- Smaller the better to administer local requirements.
- So many problems. Why add to it by sharing with possibly 4 others who also have huge problems.
- So rates and services remain unchanged.
- So things don't get out of hand.
- Stable rate/service, better number per councillor.
- Stand-alone is a good argument. Must work at strengthening it. Good luck!
- Stand-alone is best for Rockdale. But a join with Kogarah would have little impact as well.
- Stand-alone would see least amount of disruption to services. Rockdale may benefit from working with Marrickville Council which does a lot of good things for the community.
- Stay as Rockdale alone but without 2nd choice the Government will rip us off more so.
- Stay safe. Don't mess up. We can't control others, but we can control ourselves.
- Stop changing things!
- Stop spending millions on surveys and spend some time and money getting some badly needed maintenance done. Forget all the socialising & parties. Just pull up your socks Rockdale Council and get the work done that you are well paid to do. It is just common sense. Last time Government interfered with restrictions on rubbish removed and weighed, etc. Council jumped on bandwagon and has let our suburbs ankle deep in litter. We are living like 3rd World lifestyles. Employees just jumped for joy.
- Strong sustainable council doing good job.
- Suits best.
- The airport will be under one local Government authority if an amalgamation is forced by the Baird Government, otherwise remain unchanged.
- The idea of having a council is to look after local matters, however, RCC councillors have acted in an appalling manner this past year so perhaps another group of councillors would make them (RCC's) more responsible.
- The [REDACTED] cannot run a small community like ours, how could he run a bigger one?
- The only feasible option given number of councillors for the area.
- The promised benefits are never permanent.
- The service very good. The suburbs and streets very clean and the house reject collection 4 times a year, very accurate and the official very friendly.
- There's nothing wrong with the way it is.
- They are a good fit, nice boundaries.
- This is our neighbour and I feel run in the same manner as ours.
- This looks best idea.
- This option (2) keeps airport and port botany for revenue generation but not to include Marrickville.
- This option meets the best interests of our community and organisation.
- To avoid future conflicts with adjoining councils.
- To have a better services.

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OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONSIDERATIONS FOR EACH OPTION

- To keep council more accountable to rate payers.
- To keep the services e.g. rubbish removal.
- To maintain local representations.
- To preserve local employment.
- To protect environment/open space/services/quality of existence and maintain costs sustainably.
- Too much debt involved with other councils.
- Traffic issues - supported by Rockdale Council.
- Use the money you have in the bank account.
- Very concerned about rates increasing and decreasing services.
- Very happy with existing excellent services.
- Very happy with present council, nothing known of others.
- Very happy with Rockdale council-afraid our service maybe diminished if join with others.
- Want Rockdale alone.
- We are already a large council, making it larger is making it hard to cover.
- We are happy with Rockdale Council and the services it provides.
- We are happy with Rockdale Council they do a good job.
- We are happy with stand-alone councils.
- We are satisfied with present services provided by Rockdale council.
- We at Rockdale council are not in debt.
- We do not want an [REDACTED] Mayor.
- We do not wish to merge, we have our own special needs here.
- We don't need other council problems.
- We have done alright on our own.
- We have the best GM, Councillors who are residents of RCC who understand residents' needs.
- We have unique situations with our Peninsular/waterways etc which could be neglected by people with their issues taking priority.
- We like things the way they are and do not wish for rate increases.
- We need to merge together to benefit for our community.
- We retain the income from Mascot Airport and some control over port development.
- We will have reduced services as we have now.
- We wish to advise you that we do not approve of the amalgamation of the 3, maybe 4, St George Councils. Rockdale Council provides its ratepayers with a very good service and if we were to lose income of around \$600,000 it would impact greatly on us, the ratepayers. It is only fair that Rockdale residents receive the benefits of this income as the area concerned is within our boundaries.
- We would prefer to keep the 'status quo' and remain independent.
- What happened with this program in Brisbane (failure).

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OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONSIDERATIONS FOR EACH OPTION

- When comparing size and money of Sutherland to Rockdale, Rockdale is more successful.
- When things get too big things get lost in the big picture.
- Whichever option means rates do not rise.
- Why should we be forced to change? Why should we agree?
- With apartment blocks being built consistently, Rockdale will continue to increase in population and thrive alone.
- With the mergers of councils the population becomes too unwieldy. Local councillors know the local area.
- Worried about debt services if amalgamation.
- Would like to continue the works programs. But if necessary amalgamation with Kogarah, I like their focus on town planning and liveable spaces.
- Would prefer rates, services and service level to remain the same, unchanged.
- You are going all right as it is.

Rockdale and Hurstville Councils merge

- Close proximity helps organisation.
- Merge them all and get rid of at least half of them and provide parking for residents instead of giving them fines.
- Prefer along, next door best option.
- Reasonable population size, better and easy to manage by councillors. How much will cost the merger?
- Rockdale & Hurstville are the most progressive.
- Rockdale is not residence friendly, Hurstville is, dealt with them in the past.
- Rockdale Stand-alone could be adversely considered by Local Government therefore my choices seem next best thing. Opt 5 too large.
- Same cultural diversity, both running same financially, Marrickville debt and bus rates could be burdened on our shoulders if merged.
- Together give more options.
- We need to merge together to benefit for our community.

Rockdale and Kogarah Councils merge

- Cost effective approach.
- Just makes sense from a geographic ,demographic perspective.
- 1 - not too big and already share some facilities.
2 - similar reasons.
- A start with a smaller population increase. A test to see how it works.
- Adjoining suburbs.
- After reading the stats in the brochure this option to me makes the most sense.
- Amalgamation will reduce administration cost and to improve customer service.
- Any more than 2 councils merging would create too large an area to be managed efficiently.

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OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONSIDERATIONS FOR EACH OPTION

- Apparently council rates in Rockdale, but voting in Kogarah.
- Appears to be most natural merger.
- Because of similarity.
- Being modest size council and no debt owing I think it's the best option.
- Best - no debt.
- Best fit for local community (especially there in non for profit sector).
- Best fit population, demographics match as well as resources.
- Best for me.
- Best of options.
- Best option.
- Better financially than some other options.
- Better option is Rockdale, Kogarah & Botany Bay.
- bigger but not too big.
- Both areas are similar.
- But be practical and give the west side of Highway (to Tom Ugly's Bridge) to Hurstville. Hurstville can deal with specific Riverside suburbs and Rockdale can deal with residential Bayside.
- Closer to Rockdale in demography and interests shared by the community.
- Combine councils for more equipment and vehicles.
- Common boundaries, cultural diversity.
- Common sense - part of each other.
- Connected closely geographically.
- Cost efficiencies and harmonisation of developing policies.
- Cultural diversity of both similar.
- Culturally I feel this area has the most similarities.
- Demographic, geographic compatibility; rates.
- Demography concerns and the make up of certain suburbs.
- Do not want anything to do with [REDACTED] Council.
- Don't want area too big.
- Economical reason, less duplication.
- Excess size (area) usually loses personal approach/character.
- Financial and current boundaries would make sense.
- Geographical adjoining, Kogarah has no debts and sustainable city approach.
- Geographically good fit, are better un councils.
- Geography makes sense.
- Good fit close to each other and not too big.
- Good thing.

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OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONSIDERATIONS FOR EACH OPTION

- Half of Sans souci is covered by Kogarah Council anyway.
- Hurstville is large enough to survive alone. Would give a large area.
- I believe that the merging of 2 councils is the best option.
- I have affiliation with Rockdale & Kogarah.
- I lie in a Rockdale Council area but do most business in Kogarah.
- I need to know the financial status of all the councils mentioned to make a learned judgment, why should we pay for others mistakes? We cannot get the appropriate services from the council at present, what hope is there when we are combined with other with no interest in our area?
- I think Kogarah as a suburb saw the most improvements in the recent years. It would be good to work with Kogarah council and to see if these improvements can be implemented in Rockdale area as well.
- Increase in rates not too substantial and staff ration and debt.
- Inevitable merging, Kogarah/Rockdale closely linked, then add Hurstville if needed.
- It is manageable.
- It is the most logical solution.
- It makes the most sense.
- It seems a sensible way to go.
- It seems logical, practical and increases power, pulling numbers as one entity.
- It's so silly having 1 side of Rocky Point Road Kogarah and the other side Rockdale.
- Keep it local with similar objectives.
- Kogarah (the smallest) is most aligned with Rockdale.
- Kogarah and Rockdale have same cultural background of residents. Don't want to merge.
- Kogarah brings no debt.
- Kogarah council has a good reputation and similar ethnic mix.
- Kogarah council has a great environment: sustainability, garbage collection. A relatively small council is still important. Also, because we live in Kogarah, so it will make sense to be in Kogarah Council.
- Kogarah Council is run well and has no debts that I know about.
- Kogarah Council is in the black, while Rockdale is in the red. Perhaps we can learn from them.
- Kogarah debt free, at least Councillors turn up for meetings.
- Kogarah has do debt; Rockdale+Kogarah is not too big; services will not change dramatically; rates are nearly the same; operating cost for a resident stays the same; people from Kogarah and Sans Souci mostly work in the city or inner city (transport); cultural similarity.
- Kogarah has no debt so they are doing it right.
- Kogarah has no debt, is riverside, protrudes into Rockdale, small in area, other proposals are too large in area.
- Kogarah is obvious fit, going too large is hard to reverse and future mergers and boundary can happen better with lessons learnt.

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OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONSIDERATIONS FOR EACH OPTION

- Kogarah is the closet fit to Rockdale and the debt level is acceptable.
- Kogarah is the missing piece in the puzzle shape.
- Kogarah is very dynamic, has a positive feel to the place.
- Kogarah lack of debt, concern about over development if merge with Hurstville.
- Kogarah looks way better than Rockdale, so Rockdale council can learn something.
- Kogarah would get with Rockdale.
- Least worst option - on the condition there is a rate freeze for 5yrs.
- Less debt incurred.
- Less debt, better for Rockdale community future, too much deadwood now.
- Less debt, population per councillor.
- Less government.
- Less staff, lower rates.
- Locations seems to make sense-difficult to really choose an option.
- Looks like Kogarah has no debt.
- Low debt, but let's got for zero.
- Makes sense.
- Makes sense geographically and "local identity" based.
- Manageable population & Land size & shared amenities.
- More efficient but not too big an area.
- Most cost effective/both councils have very similar demographics, etc.
- Most evenly matches councils.
- Most familiar councils.
- Most sensible options.
- Natural.
- Natural fit. Already working/sharing.
- Natural neighbours.
- Natural synergy.
- Neighbouring councils, similar housing/businesses.
- No particular reason. I feel that this option would manageable.
- Not taking on any/too much debt, population low but almost meeting requirement.
- Other options are too large - Kogarah & Rockdale are similar in makeup/community.
- Pick of all.
- Population of St George interacts in the three areas.
- Prefer so any others.
- Proximity to each other.
- Rates stay steady, no increase debt, similar cultural diversity.
- Rockdale & Kogarah diversity is similar.

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OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONSIDERATIONS FOR EACH OPTION

- Rockdale and Kogarah are similar in many ways and share coast line. The addition of Hurstville would make the council very large to administer effectively but we could accept this option if the amalgamation with Kogarah only is not acceptable by the government.
- Rockdale/Kogarah is a natural fit plus Hurstville maybe a bit too big.
- Same areas (Hurstville is too Big).
- Seems a good idea.
- Seems like the best fit both geographically and demographically.
- Seems logical.
- Seems to make sense, totally against including Canterbury.
- Similar and compatible.
- Similar community.
- Similar community needs.
- Similar culture and maintain the unique living standard.
- Similar population, demographics, Kogarah is in a good financial position.
- Similar populations.
- Similar sizes, similar geography, maintains good councillor representation.
- Similarities.
- Sounds serviceable.
- St George Hospital, Police Stations in Kogarah.
- The cultural diversity between the two communities are similar.
- There are more similarities as well as not being too large.
- There's not much debt.
- These 2 councils are more relative to each other, with proximity with Kogarah and the airport with Marrickville and Botany Bay Councils.
- These 2 councils are similar in terms of operating cost therefore amalgamation would improve efficiency and residents are not worse off hopefully.
- These suburbs are the closest-I feel they might benefit from experiences.
- This amalgamation has least Department involved and similar council.
- This made sense.
- This option would have the least negative impact.
- To consolidate boundaries and achieve population size for the Fit for the Future.
- To keep St George area under one roof.
- Tradition neighbours and similar residents.
- Traditional St George area.
- We already share with those areas and they are 'like' areas.
- We feel that merging with either of these options would progress our area in Rockdale as all these Councils are progressive in their planning.
- We need to merge together to benefit for our community.

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OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONSIDERATIONS FOR EACH OPTION

- We think that both council more reliable.
- well run councils, share many important boundaries already.
- With the figures given it makes more sense.
- You might then have money to upgrade sporting facilities (other than soccer) as well as have a decent budget for street.

Option 1 – Rockdale, Kogarah and Hurstville Councils merge (St George) Responses

- 1st choice: It seems like the most natural combination, from the point of view of daily life. I live in Rockdale, formerly worked in Kogarah and do a lot of shopping in Hurstville. These suburbs are connected by major roads, bus lines and train lines. Many people live in one of these areas and go to school or work and shop in the other two. The population diversity is comparable across these regions. All are served by The St George Hospital.
2nd choice: primarily because of the possibility of increased control over airport issues. This is strictly self-interest, as we live near the airport.
- 1st preference - it's a natural fit both geographically, culturally and demographically.
2nd preference - I respect the way that these councils have been developed and would like the same level of development in Rockdale council.
- 1st preference - St George identity - natural boundaries and cultural mix.
2nd choice Rockdale stand-alone - stats show Rockdale doing ok (although number of councillors perhaps excessive).
Definitely not [REDACTED] Council who appear to have less area, public space, population yet very high debt and staff numbers. I think stats on Marrickville rates are dated - land tax on 2 properties family has in Marrickville this year are 49% and 79% increase on previous year respectively - which means rates will also increase.
- 1st: Seems to have the best alignment of demographics, business types etc. The current boundaries seem arbitrary in any case.
2nd: The airport noise and traffic issues are real and affect these areas. It seems unlikely this will improve even when Badgerys Creek is operating.
- 2 & 3 is the best of things to consider, efficiency.
- 3 councils all part of St George.
- A better cultural fit and connection to St George region.
- A bigger council is better but Canterbury does not fit as well with the area.
- A logical amalgamation of neighbouring councils. Builds on the shared identity Plus the cultural diversity of the three areas. One St George area!
- A more logical combination than other options.
- A natural amalgamation.
- A physically appropriate cluster/area.
- A sensible regional approach. Kogarah council's operating expenses appear too high, although it's debt free. Hurstville council alone brings too much debt. Kogarah+Hurstville+Rockdale is a good blend financially, and similar demographics in what is already considered by many to be one region - St George.
- A St George area council makes sense due to the sense of community in the area and a similar slew of cultural backgrounds. A larger council will have greater control and financial scope to conduct larger projects in the best interests of the whole region, rather than the bottom line of single councils.

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OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONSIDERATIONS FOR EACH OPTION

- A St George council would fit with the cultural, geographic and transport features of the Kogarah, Rockdale and Hurstville areas. It's an easy and logical fit whereas the Marrickville and Canterbury areas culturally are integrally part of the 'inner west'. The Cook's River is a barrier to merging with those areas. I don't think Botany Bay is a good fit because of its separate geography and the barrier created by the airport. It just seems to fit better with the south eastern suburbs like Pagewood, Maroubra, La Perouse etc.
- Absurd having small council, costs.
- After a stand-alone option - this appeared the most viable.
- All 3 councils are part of St George area.
- All areas have a similar social demographic.
- All good together.
- All in the one area, similar problems.
- All in the same area St George.
- All on the one railway line, more economical, keep costs down.
- all St George councils seem a good choice.
- All St George Suburbs.
- All very similar.
- All within close area.
- All within the same geographical area.
- Already have waste services shared. Cost sharing for other services. Better/easier cross regional planning for population growth.
- Already operating closely together, residents move between the three zones to shop and use services.
- Already Share Services and localities are similar to each other.
- Already there is a 'St George' identity. Boundaries have limited some decision making.
- Amalgamating as St George Council makes sense as all three current councils are similar in demographics and I believe the population would have common interests.
- Amalgamation will result in synergy savings (corruption).
- Amalgamation will result in synergy savings and down corruption.
- Amalgamations must happen-this seems the most logical-not too big, just right.
- Areas are most alike.
- As the area name sake.
- At present residents don't recognise their LGA with the suburb they live.in. Australia is over governed and larger councils will have the ability to change state government narrow focus.
- Balance of size and culture. Canterbury very large already.
- Because I have read documentation and believe it is the best option.
- Because is good for our City.
- Because it makes the most business sense.
- Because it meets the State Government requirements and current demographics.
- Because makes sense to keep St George area as one Council.

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OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONSIDERATIONS FOR EACH OPTION

- Because Marrickville and Canterbury are in major debt. I don't want to bear the brink of their mistakes.
- Because maybe Rockdale Council will install a lift at Bardwell Park station, in line with Hurstville & Kogarah stations and escalators to help the elder and infirm people to use trains.
- Because no option was given for merging All 6 councils which we would have chosen.
- Because of the demographics of the people/who live in these areas.
- Because of the lower debt levels.
- Because there are close together there are all in the St George area.
- Because they are well run financially.
- Because we already share a lot of resources, it meets the State Government requirements, it's a logical (natural) region with good boundaries (bay and rivers).
- Believe it would be cost effective and save money.
- Best economic outcome.
- Best financial and cultural fit.
- Best fit for the 3 Councils. However I do wonder why Botany Council could not be included with these 3 Councils in amalgamation.
- Best fit. Not overruled by Canterbury and not with Marrickville.
- Best for the council's involved (geographically).
- Best outcome of 6 options.
- Best use of resources for area at LGA level.
- Better cultural and regional identity with St George option, as well as business rates and housing rates holding stable coupled with low council debt levels make this an attractive option. A merger with Botany Bay council also, I think, has considerable cross-over with Rockdale for cultural and regional identity purposes - I do not think there is as much cross-over with Marrickville however. The worst aspect of the Bayside plan is the considerably high business rates for this council area, and the debt Marrickville brings. My most preferred option is a merger between Botany, Kogarah and Rockdale.
- Better progress RCC, useless alone.
- Better save money.
- Better services - duplication of services - waste collection already amalgamated.
- Bexley local services.
- Big council less management fee.
- Bigger is better - get rid of State Government.
- Bigger is better, it will cut administration cost (get rid of State government).
- Border opportunity for progress change.
- Cause [REDACTED] Council is corrupt and incompetent.
- Closely neighboured councils should form one complete.
- Combine the councils into a 'St George' Council.
- Combined \$\$\$ can get things community needs fixed asap not in years. With \$\$\$ from developers councils need to give back to community asap and not sit on \$\$\$ from fees they have charged/implemented.

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OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONSIDERATIONS FOR EACH OPTION

- Combining Kogarah, Hurstville and Rockdale will work well together as we all identify as being part of the St George region and St George Council won't be too large.
- Common area of St George.
- Common communal enterprises. Share the love (I mean debt).
- Common culture between the council regions, better association with the regions than other options, economies of scale from increasing council coverage.
- Common interests.
- Commonality on communities and culture background.
- Commonality/location.
- Community of interest, growth areas.
- Compatible.
- Connection with St George.
- Convenience and proximity for travel, shopping and general living.
- Councillors being accountable to a larger electoral will reduce personal informed decisions.
- Councils already see themselves as "St George" for many programs. 2nd option retains the airport & docks - as key NSW infrastructure. The downside of this is that zoning may change and make the whole area industrial...
- Council's areas are similar. Amalgamation of these councils has been discussed for some time.
- Create regional Council with similar characteristics.
- Cultural diversity and similar planning purpose.
- Cultural diversity similar, the debt doesn't increase by much.
- Cultural, financial, approx. size of Sutherland Shire Council where I used to live.
- Current information systems make merging efficient and sensible. These councils have common boundaries and areas of interest, particularly Rockdale and Kogarah. I have included Hurstville in my first preference because of economies of scale and ease of travel within the three councils specified. Canterbury and Marrickville seem too far and have different populations from the three specified. Botany Bay is 'overseas.'
- Current Rockdale, Kogarah & Hurstville are similar demographically.
- Cut red tape, costs, double up (same region).
- Cutting out a lot of dead wood.
- Day to day life spans these areas already centralised management makes sense.
- Do not like Marrickville.
- Do NOT want to see a merger with Canterbury council. Logical geographic, economic and cultural mergers which allow for growth and do not mean Rockdale residents need to take on another council's issues.
- Don't want to end up paying Marrickville's big debt.
- Easy going and cheap rate.
- Economic sense.
- Economies of scale.

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OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONSIDERATIONS FOR EACH OPTION

- Economies of scale possible whilst retaining St George identity.
- Economy of scale/get rid of obstructionist liberal councillors.
- Economy of scale in every regard. Particularly number of councillors.
- Economy of scale. Currently too extravagant for small councils.
- Economy of scale. Rockdale, Kogarah & Hurstville have been always historically, culturally & geographically connected.
- Efficiencies.
- Eliminate duplication of service providers in Ramsgate/Sans Souci and reduce costs.
- Embody St George Area - cut administrative costs.
- Established areas - obvious amalgamation.
- Established identity strong. Three good, councils combined.
- Established St George Identity. Decent budget to work with.
- Existing synergies.
- Existing synergy. Similar demographic, minimal impact on rates and level of service.
- Feel it is best solution, most residents are familiar with and use facilities in the other two.
- First preference is due to proximity and cohesive long term plans, i.e. planning for infrastructure, employment options, and social structures in our local area. Second preference is financial gain from the airport.
- Fit best.
- Geographical & Demographic sense, max efficiency.
- Geographical location.
- Geographical, cultural and scale fit.
- Geographical, St George, similar culture/identity.
- Geographically it's a good fit - should be able to save 20% on running costs.
- Geographically it's a good merge.
- Geographically makes more sense.
- Geographically makes sense, economically makes sense, we all streamline our jobs so do councils.
- Geographically makes sense. Some 'tweeks' will be needed.
- Geography of area, natural grouping.
- Good commonality, financially better - Marrickville should NOT be joined to Rockdale for this reason, similar staffing levels, meets government requirements (this is important, if it doesn't meet government requirements, its unlikely Rockdale's recommendations will be adopted - then you simply get what you're given).
- Good public transport, steady rates & operating cost. Good case for pensioners.
- good size, similar life styles.
- Greater efficiencies.
- Greater St George identity and common cultural diversity.
- Greatest compatibility, less disruption to ratepayers.

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OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONSIDERATIONS FOR EACH OPTION

- Grouping look logical.
- Have lived and worked in this St George area over 70yrs.
- Having one large council makes it easier to subcontract services to get the job done.
- History of Rockdale, Kogarah & Hurstville being the St George Area.
- History, culture, geography.
- Hopefully get rid of some of those corrupt councillors e.g. [REDACTED]
- Hopefully less corruption.
- Hopefully, through amalgamation will get rid of some of [REDACTED] Group/per serving councillors.
- I agree with the St George Council concept.
- I am assuming that there are economies of scale to be achieved in merging councils so merging four council areas should realise the greatest economic benefit over time. Doing nothing is not a viable option.
- I believe that the 3 areas would amalgamate well as they have people with similar cultural backgrounds, the form part of the St George area already and the numbers will meet Government criteria and not be too big.
- I believe these areas have similar needs and service similar population groups.
- I chose these options because geographically they are in the St George area and are financially sound.
- I feel it to be the most manageable solution.
- I have worked for years to have Sans Souci/Ramsgate under the one Council Control.
- I like it.
- I like the idea of a St George Council.
- I love Marrickville and used to live there. But the bayside option would be too difficult to operate across efficiently. Imagine trying to send depot teams around the airport all day long - inefficient. Plus people in Botany and Marrickville don't associate with the Rockdale area, so there will be problems. Canterbury should go to Bankstown, with the Kingsgrove and Earlwood suburbs joining St George. Would like to see Sydney Airport still making a contribution though. The smaller St George options don't meet the government's population threshold of about 200-250k people. So you'd be wasting your time proposing those.
- I prefer to join with Marrickville as they are very progressive.
- I shop and visit all 3 areas frequently (geographic).
- I think a St George Council is appropriate.
- I think it's sensible.
- I think it's the best.
- I think that the resultant increase in councillors would bring 'smarter' decisions in matters concerning us in the east.
- I think the St George identity is important, and I think it will be lost if any mergers go against this. I also think that bigger should create more scale and efficiencies.
- Identify more with the concept of a St George rather than Rockdale.
- Identity.

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OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONSIDERATIONS FOR EACH OPTION

- If a merge is required St George Council best option.
- If change must occur there seem to be the best options.
- If we must amalgamate and it seems we must.
- If we're going to get something out of the Fit for Future fund, then that removes the stand-alone, +Hurstville, and +Kogarah options. +Canterbury+St George doesn't seem to have any positives at all. That leaves the St George option and the bayside option. The St George option is nice because the three councils are already very close. Similar types of people live here and the area itself is already well-known as the St George area. The debts are low and rates are similar (slight concern about residential rates going up). I don't really understand why population per councillor is a significant metric. I guess most of the population is pretty blasé about representation anyway. Bayside is my second choice because of the airport and because Marrickville is pretty hip and we can learn some stuff from them. The concern is how the change in business rates will affect the local community when it hits businesses in Rockdale.
- Improvement.
- Inherit less overall debt, lower operating costs.
- Interlocking borders, all in St George area, steady rates, meets Government requirements.
- Interlocking borders, the same St George area, similar rates.
- Is more homogenous and have similar structures.
- It combines the St George area.
- It geographically makes sense for these Councils to merge. They have a lot in common, they are part of the same ROC.
- It is a compact unit and eliminates the unnecessary doubling up of resources and staff.
- It is best for the economic efficiency of relatively smaller council areas to merge, bringing with it greater economies of scale, less wastage and duplication of resources and hopefully moderately lower council rates.
- It is compact, similar interests, always known as St George District.
- It is important to improve services and minimise waste of resources and funds.
- It is the most good one.
- It is the most logical amalgamation.
- It is the most suitable one.
- It just fits and provides economy of scale.
- It keeps a cohesive action of keeping 'St George' historically.
- It make sense, cost effective and better decision making.
- It makes a lot of sense in comparison to the nearby Councils.
- It makes better sense, as residents usually do shopping, have doctor's appointments and other aspects of daily living in each of these areas.
- It makes sense geographically and culturally - a natural fit.
- It makes sense to have one St George Council.
- It makes sense, synergies to merge are all correct.
- It makes the most sense geographically.

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OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONSIDERATIONS FOR EACH OPTION

- It reflects the immediate geographical areas, which is logical. Serving local community.
- It seems a good fit.
- It seems the best fit.
- It seems the best minimum amalgamation.
- It seems the most logical choice.
- It seems to be a logical conclusion after considering information.
- It seems to me that a bigger council has the best possibility of maintaining services at an acceptable level. Also as the state government will inevitably look for further amalgamations in the future, I would prefer one bout of confusion rather than an ongoing saga.
- It would formalise what already occurs "behind the scenes" e.g. waste etc and remove some silly boundaries - i.e. through Kingsgrove, Kogarah and Hurstville.
- It would mean a cut in staff and better administration.
- It's best for the community.
- It's the best.
- Joins areas with similar identity 'St George'.
- Keep St George Area.
- Keep the St George area together.
- Keeps local identity.
- Keeps the council on a stronger local focus.
- Kingsgrove borders on the 3 councils areas.
- Kingsgrove Road under one council.
- Known as St George.
- Kogarah & Hurstville manage their council better.
- Larger is better (more efficiency/economies of scale and stronger political voice) but the Bayside/Airport option is too spread out and dis-jointed.
- Least disruption or change.
- Less cost for ratepayers and better service.
- Less councillors per head population.
- Less debt and operating costs per resident.
- Less debt, less stuff.
- Leverage off existing joint ventures, agreements and services. St George identity is important.
- Leverage the wider capabilities via a larger council.
- Like St George.
- Location.
- Logical amalgamation. No other good option, so State Government will requires at least that.
- Logical boundaries and relative same operating costs.
- Logical combined communities.

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OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONSIDERATIONS FOR EACH OPTION

- Logical grouping.
- Logical grouping of connected similar areas.
- Logical options.
- Logical, practical solution.
- Looked at operating cost per resident, cost of budget and if rates will remain the same/ steady.
- Lots of similarities in the makeup of these 3 areas- think 15 councillors for just Rockdale area is really unnecessary.
- Mainly as overheads and duplication - can be removed for St George Area.
- Make sense to me.
- Makes a larger more efficient council.
- Makes geographical sense. Eliminates division of Hurstville by railway line and Ramsgate/ Sans Souci by Rocky Point Road.
- Makes sense financially and demographically.
- Makes sense in terms of the identity of the area as St George and will meet the requirements.
- Makes the most sense based on geography and demographics.
- Makes sense to amalgamate into St George as similar residential requirements.
- Manageable and population per councillor is correct.
- Manageable, efficient, local identification.
- Many Rockdale residents already identify with the 'St George' region.
- Meets Government Requirements in terms of population; Bayside/Airport Council does not meet financial outlook assessments given Botany Bay is currently a weak performing council. Canterbury is a weak council, with a negative financial outlook. Merging with it would disadvantage residents. Therefore only option that is a good fit demographically, financially and geographically is St George Councils.
- Meets requirements but not too large as to be unmanageable.
- Meets State Government requirement, demographics are similar.
- Meets state government requirements/rates steady/natural grouping/already share joint waste service.
- Meets the state Governments requirements.
- Merger best interest for residents.
- Minimise: Council's back offices expenses.
- More efficiency.
- More efficient Government and planning.
- More in common than other options.
- Most compatible.
- Most costs remain fairly similar, debt is reasonable, staff needs pruning.
- Most likely to meet government requirements-why Botany Bay only with Marrickville, why not add to St George?
- Most logical.

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OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONSIDERATIONS FOR EACH OPTION

- Most logical and compact.
- Most logical choice.
- Most logical combination, St George area.
- Most logical geographically but could include Botany.
- Most logical of the options.
- Most sensible as all have common boundaries.
- Most sensible option because of proximity.
- My 1st Preference has always made sense to me. It seems a logical fit and should be a good economical model.
- My choice meets State Government merger requirements.
- My family has lived happily in these three councils.
- My view we have too many councillors in metropolitan area, costs would be reduced. DA's residential and commercial/industrial would be done efficiently e.g. for property on boundaries of more than one council.
- Natural aggregation-3 councils already work somewhat together as St George area.
- Natural and historical boundaries-common community interests.
- Natural boundaries.
- Natural boundaries, just the idea size, economies of scale, socially similar and geographic correct.
- Natural combination.
- Natural fit geographically.
- Natural fit, best economic fit for future.
- Natural grouping, similar cultural diversity.
- Natural grouping, similar cultural diversity, historical relevance.
- Natural merge geographically and development - wise.
- Natural synergy.
- Neighbouring councils may have the same views on better servicing its community.
- Neutral, not too big. Hopefully will still have good service.
- Never understood the need for three separate councils in the St George area and seems a natural fit, hence, first preference. Second preference makes sense regarding airport income.
- Not too large, no rate change.
- Obviously makes sense to act regionally and avoid the money being wasted on things like the Bexley pool.
- On paper this is the best option. Hurstville is too small and will possibly become isolated if only Rockdale & Kogarah merge.

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OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONSIDERATIONS FOR EACH OPTION

- One St George council is a natural fit for a long established regional identity rather than three councils acting independently. Services such as waste disposal are already provided by the same organisation so that continuity would not be affected.
Canterbury is my least preferred option, it is a culturally different area than St George, and a mini-merger with either Hurstville or Kogarah does little to change the status quo. The only (but significant) benefit of a Bayside merger is a continuing voice in airport management although Marrickville council area would be a better fit for a merger with Canterbury than Rockdale.
- Only like to merge with St George better financially.
- Operating cost for resident will be reduced and other benefits.
- Opt 1 - Commonality, reasonable debt and population per councillor.
Opt 2 - Stronger voice re/Sydney Airport plus income from airport
- Option 1: These areas are similar in population and nature, and share the same infrastructure, trains, parks, and retail, commercial and industrial areas, etc.
- Others owe too much money.
- People from Hurstville, Kogarah comes + Rockdale, Council's that fit for future.
- Pool resources. Less waste. No more border let downs.
- Population fits for future, already have joined projects. Anyway, amalgamations will be forced.
- Pre-established recognition of St George Area, similarity s/w each council, no changes to residents and business rates.
- Prefer 1, if we have to merge Rockdale, Kogarah, Hurstville, not Canterbury or Marrickville.
- Proximity, rates, demographic.
- Put Kogarah people in charge and they will be no debt.
- Reduced waste.
- Right size, big enough to matter, small enough to care.
- Rockdale & Hurstville options, but they do not quite meet State Government requirements so the St George Council option best preserves identity/character of the area.
- Rockdale/Kogarah /Hurstville located beside each other so easy to manage.
- Rockdale Council has too many excessive charges i.e. DA approvals, etc.
- Rockdale council is different time old boy.
- Rockdale has more in common with Kogarah & Hurstville not Canterbury.
- Rockdale is part of St George.
- Rockdale is very badly run.
- Rockdale, Kogarah and Hurstville have very different rules (especially around development) which are confusing and make little sense as the suburbs are so close together. Uniformity across this area would be a welcome change.
- Same history and culture, which will drive efficiencies for a consistent approach to the region.
- Same local areas.
- Satisfies the State, similar demographics.

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OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONSIDERATIONS FOR EACH OPTION

- Save duplication on Admin Staff. Problems with Kingsgrove shops being on border of Rockdale and Hurstville councils.
- Save expenditure, better planning.
- Save many triplicate positions (3 managers, 39 councillors...).
- Save money.
- Seemed the best option. Although would have liked Botany as well.
- Seems a logical option.
- Seems a more natural fit.
- Seems a natural grouping of councils.
- Seems best fit and meets NSW Government requirements.
- Seems it would be more efficient.
- Seems logical choice.
- Seems logical to have the St George Councils merge.
- Seems to be the most logical amalgamation with the least actual, or perceived likely, adverse effects. Supports the strengthening of the St. George area brand.
- Seems to be the most obvious.
- Share similar cultural background, interests, good size (not too big or small).
- Shares more pluses than minuses.
- Significant budget increase.
- Similar area/similar needs.
- Similar community and structure according to your brochure.
- Similar councils/people/expectations.
- Similar cultural diversity.
- Similar cultural diversity, strong St George identity, planning purposes.
- Similar demographics.
- Similar population, all connected, currently sharing some services.
- Similarities in urban form and population.
- Smaller council means local issues are addressed quickly and efficiently.
- Smaller councils don't work and cost money to run. Merger is a must.
- Smarter business.
- So Rockdale council learn to use our money wiser.
- St George already has its own identity that residents can feel a part of. These three councils already share some services, and it would be beneficial for residents if the entire St George region was able to deliver services more efficiently. A holistic approach to the regions planning could be achieved if the entire region is under common management.
- St George area - St George Council.
- St George area should be one Council.
- St George area, St George Councils - together.

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OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONSIDERATIONS FOR EACH OPTION

- St George Council has more in common with the area.
- St George Council is the way for the future.
- St George Council makes more sense than introducing other councils such as Canterbury which should merge with other councils (geographically makes sense).
- St George council maybe similar to service and rates, etc.
- St George Council seems to be a good fit.
- St George Identity.
- St George is a well-known identifiable region of Sydney, all of the sports teams and the previous county council - I'm supposing the name comes historically from a 19th century cadastral parish. I identify as a resident of St George anyway (compared to Shire, Inner West etc.) so would like to see the name celebrated as the local government area.
Also as far as I know virtually all services provided are a combined effort between Rockdale, Kogarah and Hurstville as it is so would lead to little change apart from rationalisation of local government overheads (sorry person reading this, hope you keep your job in that rationalisation) and a reduction in the unnecessary number of councillors representing what actually is a rather small area. For the addition of Canterbury as second preference, big population and ratings and probably closest in demographics to the great community in Rockdale we already have. Know there's some problems atm at Canterbury so means a chance to [REDACTED] as well. My 3rd choice would be the Airport one as that is a major economic focus of the area and Botany represents a really good source of industrial area ratings, for that reason is sure to be adjoined to Randwick in the final set up.
- St George is an existing planning area. It has a distinctive identity.
- St George Shire Council - would be mirror image of Sutherland Shire Council.
- St George should be St George Councils only.
- St George amalgamation seems the most logical. Much of what I do is done in Rockdale Hurstville or Kogarah.
- St George is suited to commonality of different councils and community involved it makes sense.
- Staff numbers and debt of Canterbury and Marrickville are not good.
- Staff numbers and debt of Canterbury and Marrickville Councils are not good and indicates significant concerns for the future.
- Stand-alone has no chance so best to choose the most financially stable and best fit amalgamation that may be acceptable to the NSW Government.
- Strength & common identity also debt managed by more residents through both.
- Strong connection and identity with St George.
- Strong connection with St George.
- Strong focus on regional identity. Similar communities, easier decision making for city growth. Same principles as 'Macquarie' in North West. 'St George' Council, 'St George' Team, 'St George' Bank, 'St George' Historic term.
- Strong regional links already exist e.g. shared infrastructure.
- Strongest and most populated.
- Sydney has too many councils. It makes sense.
- Synergy.

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OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONSIDERATIONS FOR EACH OPTION

- The 3 councils have much in common, e.g. hospital, services, transport link.
- The 3 in one council the way to be.
- The amalgamation of these 3 councils seems the logical solution based on their geographical area. Also, as the area has always been known as St George, the proposed "St George Council" as a governing body would be more identifiable with the merger of these three councils.
- The area has an established identity.
- The best mix to achieve economies of scale.
- The best way to go.
- The better choice.
- The cultural diversity of communities is similar.
- The culture diversity of communities living in Rockdale, Kogarah, Hurstville is similar. Over the last approx. 5yrs there have been a large influx of mainly [REDACTED] move into area.
- The most logical choice.
- The most logical on sensible choice St George Council. Interesting mix, might work ok Bayside/Airport Council.
- The most similar population and historical relationship.
- The population 240.000 approx.
- The right amount of numbers. More commonalities.
- The St George Council is a natural fit for the region.
- The St. George Council seems a natural fit and may follow the boundaries of the former St. George County Council. As well as meeting the State Government's Fit for the Future requirements, it would have an established regional identity and is a natural grouping.
- The strong connections and identity within the area.
- There are better opportunities for economy of scale.
- There's an already existing synergy between the St George Councils. There would be economies of scale but still not too big. The Marrickville option is ridiculous, there's no connection with that option, it's only been put in to justify keeping the Airport and frankly Rockdale Council shouldn't be relying on one big industrial rate payer.
I don't support Rockdale standing alone because [REDACTED]
councils in Sydney. Still does not provide green waste bins, [REDACTED] that corrupted the Business Awards, only a handful of Council community events and no community initiatives/projects, dog off leash laws ignored, Wolli Creek/Turrella overdevelopment plus turning a blind eye to the disastrous road safety in that area during the construction phase, Woolies Wolli Creek car park an absolute joke - [REDACTED]
Plus Councillors too arrogant to be bothered to respond to constituents - the list goes on and on and on. BRING ON AMALGAMATION.
- These 3 councils are all part of the St George area.
- These 3 councils are in the heart of the St George District.
- These 3 councils are more St George area.
- These 3 councils have similar culture and share resources in place already.
- These 3 councils together are good for the small business in the area.

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OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONSIDERATIONS FOR EACH OPTION

- These are the most logical.
- These councils are closely aligned and often tender together.
- They are all in St George area.
- They are in the St George area and with Canterbury, Botany & Marrickville it would be too large to supervise adequately.
- This is the most appropriate choice e.g. Railway (should be a uniting force) geographic issues e.g. Sans Souci areas current divisions.
- This is the same area as the St George County Council, which worked efficiently.
- This meets the government criteria 'Fit for the Future'.
- This merger makes sense. There is already a 'St George' community affinity through sport (local and NRL). All Councils appear to have reasonable economic performance. I think bringing Canterbury into the mix alters the above, as traditionally this area has closer ties with the Bankstown region. Why not look into the option of a St George/Bay side council, including Botany Bay to take advantage of the income and potential influence over the airport?
- This option more efficient.
- Three councils have similar cultural, structure.
- Three councils might work better than one.
- Tight fit, no financial stumbling-blocks such as debt from other councils and small budgets between all three.
- To cut costs.
- To cut unnecessary costs.
- To get max representation/and funds when NSW Government 'dishes' out funding for councils.
- To retain 100% St George Council area.
- To save costs and uniform laws and regulations on building new homes to chopping down trees.
- To save money (one major instead of three).
- To save money of over number of staff and councillors.
- Too much expensive government.
- Too much overlap in services offered and economies of scale dictate better financial gains and negotiations of services with vendors.
- Under this option I agree with the things for consideration put forward.
- Want to know more about it.
- We already have a St George identity, already our local area and full fit requirements.
- We are over governed. This should improve efficiency and lower costs.
- We are St George and have nothing to do with the other areas.
- We are the St George area. If we can't stay as we are we should merge with like communities. Merging with Canterbury would be too big. I do not think we would get any benefit of being listened to if it came to decisions about the airport so not interested in the Bayside/airport option. Also I do not think Marrickville Council is interested.

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OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONSIDERATIONS FOR EACH OPTION

- We live in the St George area so it makes sense to have a St George council.
- We live in the St George area and most of Rockdale's Council Boundaries are with Kogarah Council so therefore it makes sense for a St George Council Area. Alternatively Kogarah and Rockdale only which would remove some of the silly boundary areas around Kogarah.
- We need to merge together to benefit for our community.
- We think this would best service our needs.
- Will achieve economic efficiencies plus not too large as other options.
- With the formation of the new combined Council this new identity should be able to operate from one Council building and this would enable the sale of the other two Council chambers and the proceeds from these sales should more than cover the costs of the redundancies of Head Office Corporate staff not required under the new agreement.
- Would make council more financially stable. Rockdale council is [REDACTED] needs to be amalgamated. Get rid of Rockdale civic culture.
- Would provide for greater efficiencies. And I don't agree with your booklet that assumes more residents per councillor is a negative - I believe councils with higher population per council often operate more efficiently and aren't as readily captured by small interest groups. St George is seen as a region of Sydney with a strong multicultural identity. This would not be jeopardised but strengthened by merging Kogarah, Hurstville and Rockdale LGAs.
- Would seem to be the best fit. Meets fit for future requirements.
- You get a green bin in Hurstville Council.

Rockdale, Kogarah, Hurstville and Canterbury Councils merge (St George + Canterbury Council)

- 3 councils in St George area is not viable.
- Amalgamation makes sense.
- Analysis showed best fit-Bayside business rates too high (I don't have a business).
- Because councils only WASTE money.
- Canterbury borders much of Rockdale LGA, progressive.
- Costs, size, transport.
- Defines the St George Area and should create efficiencies.
- Each council has a specific strength, so the merging of all of them will result in a very strong council. They will be able to look at all areas and make decisions which will benefit everyone on the whole.
- Earlwood covers 2 councils.
- Economies of scale.
- Economies of scale. Combined resources better serve residents.
- Financially and future growth wise this would be the most successful.
- Fit for the Future (2015-2099).
- Greater consolidation better for Australians. No need for little village councils with no money.
- It is better to have a bigger Council than smaller Council. More money, more services for the community. It will lead towards financially sustainable future.

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OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONSIDERATIONS FOR EACH OPTION

- It is better to have a bigger Council than smaller Council. More money, more services for the community. It will lead towards financially sustainable future.
- It makes a lot of sense in comparison to the nearby Councils.
- Land rates too high.
- Larger area and population-reduce costs and duplications.
- Larger councils it efficient allows better planning across a larger area.
- Larger councils-reduce staff and costs.
- Less bosses and more workers.
- Less overheads.
- Local Government is obsolete. Complete, mandatory amalgamations for all listed councils.
- More trouble councils do nothing.
- Much better coordination of the work related to those areas and less spending on bureaucrat's wages. Together is better than separately.
- Operating cost per resident will go down.
- Our life style will be better with the amalgamated councils. There will be uniform standard signs, work procedures for Development application. We can be called St George Council with many more cultures and ethnicities with different backgrounds.
- Prior to living in the RCC municipality my family and I lived in Marrickville for many years. Marrickville council is streets ahead in providing quality services to ratepayers. Additionally their back of house staff tend to be extremely proactive and responsive to residents suggestions and concerns rather than being dismissive. Many of my friends and neighbours in the community are astounded by the poor service we receive from RCC and some of its support staff - in particular the response to traffic concerns is pitiful. Furthermore, I believe that within Rockdale the demographic is changing to better match the urbanity found in Marrickville and this is far more desirable to me that a parochial St. George merger. I have put the merger with Canterbury as my second choice for this reason also, although it is truly a distant second.
- Rates are high. Amalgamation lower house rates, less Mayors and councillors.
- Rockdale council already has very close links with Hurstville & Kogarah council to separate from them would be very silly and they are all close in approximately. We need to grow and we need more open places, Botany and Marrickville are too small and offer nothing to us.
- Save millions of dollars, so many councillors unnecessary.
- State Government report suggests this is most feasible option - not stand-alone.
- Stop corruption and favours to friends, builders!
- The amalgamation of Councils is an initiative by the state government and I like to think that as leaders they seem to know what they are doing and if we are unable to get a merger with 4 councils the next best thing would be 3.
- The region would acquire a stronger voice in the NSW Government decision making.
- There are way too many councils in Sydney, there's over 40 of them, it should come down to about 10 maximum. Too much wasted money on all the council buildings, staff, councillors, mayors, etc. Too much wasted money. Larger councils should be formed and made to work more efficiently with less red tape. Too many people living way too comfortable off our taxes.
- To save money.

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OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONSIDERATIONS FOR EACH OPTION

- To save money for the State to build homes for the poor people.
- Too many councillors for nothing.
- We need to merge together to benefit for our community.

Rockdale, Marrickville and Botany Bay Councils merge (Bayside/Airport Council)

- 1 this would keep revenue from airport/port botany in Rockdale & would have a bigger say in airport development as this effects most people living in Rockdale. 2 best other option as would not be too big. all options increase area & population but I think this is best 2nd option.
- 1. Keeps most of the Bay's foreshore under one council.
2. It makes sense to have all of Sans Souci under the one council.
- 1. Transport in 1 LGA-united influence over airport.
2. Geographic/cultural similarities.
- 1st Pref - Having lived in Marrickville council area for 6 years, I found the council seemed to be well liked and well run. I also think the airport needs to pay its fair share, and this option assists in that process (apparently).
2nd Pref - The St George option 'makes sense' from an identity point of view. I've included Canterbury so that the Wolli creek valley (and catchment) is wholly within a single council area - hopefully this will mean better management/care of that area.
- Advocate on behalf of residents re Airport/ensure income.
- After amalgamation, there are important transport (ex.airport), graceful environment (ex. coast),and port in this new suburb. So, NSW government can have more concerns to this suburb. If yes, there will be more investments for this suburb development. Many kinds of infrastructure are built, resulting in that the standard of living is improved.
- Airport (natural 'local' landmark) Bay shared with Botany.
- Airport and port fees together.
- Airport and the port will provide economic growth even as industrialization of the Bay council starts declining.
- Airport control/Bayside control
- Airport factor, Rockdale, Kogarah & Hurstville they always look like they are together.
- Airport funding, St George community of interest.
- Airport income/rates stay - stay inner city.
- Airport income 2 control.
- Airport income and control.
- All affected by airport.
- As per info we must amalgamate: commonality with Marrickville/Botany, medium size Council, will provide a more vibrant a super size community.
- Bayside airport brings together councils affected by the airport and can work together to manage associated traffic issues.
- Bayside Council would be 'progressive'. Effective environmental management of airport/port/industrial. Creates business, Council prepared to make business pay rather than shift burden to residents. Most options create councils that will be solidly to the left or right politically and this rather service delivery will under what state Government/business groups/residents etc want.

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OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONSIDERATIONS FOR EACH OPTION

- Bayside is a more obvious connection, but if not the bayside merger, then all should be merged for greatest efficiency.
- Bayside/Airport Council will benefit whole area in long term.
- Bayside/airport is the only options during airport income stays in Rockdale. The airport affects Rockdale so we'll have a stronger voice to advocate on behalf of us residents about the airport Marrickville is a happening and funky area, Arncliffe and its surrounds are becoming occupied ex inner westers who want a larger family home but can't afford Newtown - the area needs diversity and good food/cafes!
- BB also a beachside Council so will have similar issues/interests/events, etc. Also, a lot of our beach issues are caused by the airport and freight industry so should be addressed by them as our Council.
- Because airport and botany bay traffic needs to be controlled.
- Because I support so many of Marrickville Council's programs and ideas.
- Because it seems to be the best option to me.
- Because they have a better future and I am not happy with Rockdale Council.
- Better water and city boundaries and better statistics for Rockdale.
- Big is better.
- Bigger council are more likely to have high standards, innovative thinking and unbiased decision making. Currently Rockdale does not provide enough good urban design, open space and allows mediocre higher density design.
- Botany Bay council one of the best.
- Botany has airport and sea port revenue.
- Botany is the best run council.
- Budget 22.3M.
- Cheaper rates, don't trust Rockdale council.
- Common needs of a bayside/airport council.
- Control of airport expansion.
- Cost efficiencies and harmonisation of developing policies.
- Diversity of councillors will dilute corrupt Rockdale Council blocks.
- Due to links with Sydney Airport and Port Botany.
- Each Council are heavily affected, both positively and negatively, by the operation of the airport. There exists significant opportunity to build upon the advantages such a large employment generating land use has for the local areas. Importantly, a bayside/airport Council will be better placed to coordinate traffic related issues amongst a whole raft of other local issues.
- Economic, increased access to revenue. Also, increased ability to access skilled council staff through economies of scale.
- Ensure economic viability of council in the future.
- Every street in Rockdale area is occupied by 3 traffic rangers (ridiculous) free country.
- Financial revenue from Airport for security in investment in local area and noise and movement control.

APPENDIX E

OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONSIDERATIONS FOR EACH OPTION

- Given that a lot of the infrastructure (roads and railway) for the airport are located in these council areas, it seems appropriate to have some control over the spend and the income. Choice two: Rockdale, Kogarah and Hurstville amalgamations seems a sensible way forward, though I understand neither Hurstville nor Kogarah are wanting to amalgamate voluntarily.
- Good for economy around the airport.
- Good revenue, less infrastructure to maintain.
- Having lived and paid rates in Marrickville, I can say it is an excellent council for residents.
- Hoping Botany council will give us more service.
- I am for full amalgamation - My choice this gives a good revenue stream.
- I believe Rockdale Council can address Marrickville issues.
- I believe the airport is a major connection and affects Rockdale with noise and flight paths.
- I believe with Marrickville and Botany Bay, Rockdale will be manageable without losing its "Community" voice. Our common concerns such as Airport noise, Transport vs Traffic, Sustainability/environment, Waterways will assist the communities in the transition to an amalgamation. Amalgamating with Marrickville and Botany will make us such a Vibrant, Multicultural community that we can become a force to be reckon with, I guess a bit like Sydney City. Hipsters, Young families, Greenies, Yuppies, Oldies, Artists, Organic growers, the new council will certainly can be unique and strong!
- I don't want [REDACTED] Hurstville and Kogarah councils.
- I hope service improve because now it is rubbish.
- I like the idea of keeping these councils and the infrastructure they bring together.
- I live near the airport and I think it is important that the Rockdale area has a greater say in the running of the airport rather than less. While the St George affiliation is more natural those councils have less to offer and will affect rates negatively.
- I think being associated with inner city and east councils will give Rockdale a great advantage in knowledge and politic power. The airport is only going to get bigger and the income could only benefit Rockdale council and residents. It's almost creating a separate shire of inner city, East and South. This could become a very powerful thing.
- I think that it is very important to keep the airport together and the Port Botany. Rockdale (Brighton), Cook Park, Grand Parade, West Botany Street and more have a direct connection to people arriving from the airport. We get the traffic, the noise and are one of the first points of call for people leaving the airport Rockdale has more in common with Marrickville than the St George councils. Wolli Creek, Arncliffe are more central, modern and developing areas.
- I'm much more connected with the Marrickville area (not so much Botany though). I shop there and use their parks and pool. I feel I have much more in common with people in the Marrickville area than further south into St George. Also, a lot of the councillors around the St George area seem to be quite dodgy. Marrickville Councillors seem to take their job seriously. We need some balance. Rockdale has a great Mayor, but there is a bunch who don't attend meetings and do really embarrassing things like appoint friends as advisers to the council. We need a larger, more professional organisation that will hopefully attract a higher caliber of councillor.
- Important revenue for council from airport, its proximity to Rockdale makes sense.

APPENDIX E

OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONSIDERATIONS FOR EACH OPTION

- In my view there is significant long term potential for sustainability with the establishment of a new entity that takes in the Airport and Port - if that entity were run like a private sector operation in the areas that can be run like a commercial business. Similarly the St George model is my second preference as I do not believe there is true long term sustainability in a business as usual approach with an improvement plan.
- Includes airport and ports.
- Income from airport very important, more business than other option (better rates).
- Income from airport, business paying more, residents pay less. Positioning Rockdale closer to the City rather than further away.
- Income from Airport. We don't need so many staffs, reduce the cost of operation.
- Income from Sydney Airport and I have lived in Marrickville council and found them very good.
- It is better for the People of Rockdale, infrastructure, economy, direction.
- It is essential we retain some control over the airport.
- It makes sense to combine the Botany Bay councils together. It also makes sense to be together in the same council as the port and airport, as a bit part of traffic is due to those 2 locations. There was no choice NOT to choose Marrickville and only choose Botany.
- It makes sense to have Bay Council.
- It meets the state Government Fit for the Future requirements.
- It's about time the Bay councils got together and made something of this beautiful, but neglected area.
- Keep Botany Bay surrounds under one 'umbrella'.
- Less change of corruption. Better use of resources.
- Less cost to rate payers, less councillors.
- Less high rise by councils.
- Less red tape and more work from the council.
- Looking at the figures Bayside/Airport Council is the better option upon which an Improvement plan can be actioned. It is the option that sets up the new amalgamation for success - the other options don't have same potential.
- Makes sense to control Botany Bay and Airport.
- Makes sense to have all airport and port infrastructure in same area. I think we should have large local councils and abolish states.
- Marrickville are a very proactive council-unlike Rockdale.
- Marrickville has a better street and park cleanliness regime.
- Marrickville has demonstrated more progressive environment policies and actions.
- Marrickville in particular are politically more progressive, and from an administrative perspective seem to have better controls and transparency around major developments, and ensuring they deliver value to the community not just the developer.
- Marrickville is a progressive and innovative which Rockdale could learn and benefit from.
- More aligned to city boundary and smaller property blocks.
- More efficient in cost.

APPENDIX E

OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONSIDERATIONS FOR EACH OPTION

- Most logical from a geographical and spread of homes, commercial and industrial - broadening the revenue base for the new Council.
- Most revenue from Airport/Port Botany at both and bigger say in development.
- Natural fit with airport and Cooks River.
- Option 1, not too big and has less foreshore than Option 2.
- Population number appears close to the desired number and the airport is valuable.
- Prior resident of Botany Bay. Their council was more thorough. It should also reduce council rate fees.
- Prior to living in the RCC municipality my family and I lived in Marrickville for many years. Marrickville council is streets ahead in providing quality services to ratepayers. Additionally their back of house staff tend to be extremely proactive and responsive to residents suggestions and concerns rather than being dismissive. Many of my friends and neighbours in the community are astounded by the poor service we receive from RCC and some of its support staff - in particular the response to [REDACTED] concerns is pitiful. Furthermore, I believe that within Rockdale the demographic is changing to better match the urbanity found in Marrickville and this is far more desirable to me than a parochial St. George merger. I have put the merger with Canterbury as my second choice for this reason also, although it is truly a distant second.
- Receive income from airport.
- Reduction of rates.
- Residential Rates remain steady.
- Residential rates would remain steady& income from the airport to remain in Rockdale area.
- Revenue and superior policies to current council.
- Rockdale already works well within its region of St George so it would seem reasonable that this grouping of Council's was combined to create the new larger version of local government in a St George Council. However, i believe that both Hurstville and Kogarah are not keen to merge with anyone, so this is my second preference. 1st preference is for the Bayside Council as this would mean that Botany Bay would be generally managed by one local government - along the lines of catchment management and environmental management of the area.
- Seemed the most logical re airport (a disaster) or Port.
- Seems logical.
- Since Rockdale Stand-alone does not meet the population criteria there is no point in choosing this option Bayside option would bring in income from the airport and consolidate the existing arrangement where the airport environs are divided between Botany Bay and Rockdale. Second preference only indicated because it is a requirement. I can't see Kogarah agreeing to join with any other council that has debt as Kogarah has none. However since the demographics are somewhat similar it is an option if Kogarah was willing. Many Rockdale residents access Kogarah's medical and other facilities and even though these are not governed by council Rockdale residents do conduct business etc in Kogarah.
- Smaller population.
- St George as one council has never gone ahead-over 60+yrs of talk. No 1 Choice - strength in business growth.
- Strategically a better option - Airport remains in Rockdale area.

APPENDIX E

OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONSIDERATIONS FOR EACH OPTION

- Sydney Airport is an essential part of Rockdale Council and Sydney as a whole and is a prized asset that we shouldn't let go of easily. The only way to ensure that we keep it within our council is to amalgamate with Marrickville and Botany Bay councils to form a Bayside/airport council. Furthermore the addition of these two councils gives the added benefit of having both the major port and major airport of Sydney within the same council. This would ensure that the state and federal government won't treat us as the forgotten child of Sydney anymore and pay more attention to us as they will realise the importance of this council to Sydney.
- The most suitable for our future.
- The Rockdale precinct of Wolli Creek and Arncliffe border Tempe, the airports, mascot and it would make complete sense to unify these 'airport' councils as we would all be affected by similar on goings with regard to developments, Westconnex, m5 and the princes hwy/cooks river.
- The Rockdale, Marrickville and Botany Bay council provides the best opportunity for these councils to maximise future sources of revenue. Further, the airport and Port Botany developments have some impact on each of the abovementioned councils and these challenges will be better met with all affected areas represented in future decisions.
- The values of Marrickville council are in line with our community.
- There is a strong argument to have the airport under one council and the increase in rates from the industrial sector will provide council with more revenue. A merger with Hurstville council does not provide any confidence given what I read about it in the local paper.
- These 2 councils are more relative to each other, with proximity with Kogarah and the airport with Marrickville and Botany Bay Councils.
- This is the only option that ensures income and a voice regarding Sydney Airport.
- To maintain key transport infrastructure in a combined council.
- To make sure the airport stays in our council and at the same time this would allow for both Sydney's major airport and major port to both be in one council. With both these important pieces of infrastructure in one council it will make sure we will not be forgotten by state, federal or commonwealth government.
- To retain income from the airport and to advocate on behalf of residents.
- Transport infrastructure within the same local Government.
- We already cover a large chunk of Botany Bay + trucks/traffic is via Rockdale to port/airport.
- We are a key transport local Government area.
- We are affected by the airport in a similar way and so we have the same issues.
- We don't want to merge with Hurstville.
- We like Marrickville council's projects and think they'd be a good influence on Rockdale.
- We need to merge together to benefit for our community.
- We should keep the airport revenue and amalgamate with council closer to the city.
- We think these would be the best options.
- We would like to have more say about the airport as we live nearby.
- Well regarded and progressive councils. Logistical alliances.
- What makes this area great is cultural diversity, closeness to the water and city and bayside council is the only way to keep that safe.
- Would be good to have a some voice/input into airport developments in the future.

APPENDIX F

OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONCERNS EXPRESSED ABOUT AMALGAMATIONS

- 1. That the economies I mentioned above aren't realised.
- 2. That the range & quality of services we enjoy in Rockdale now will decrease under amalgamation in the future.
- 1. May need to change legislation to allow more than 15 councillors per council - needs to be based on area, population etc.
- 2. If in a single location? all current locations may not manage public access congestion caused by amalgamation.
- 50% in Rockdale Council are not residence and rate payers (should not be employ).
- A bigger council may mean smaller community issues may fall by the wayside and continual rise in rates while service might start to wane.
- A larger area than that existing could result in adversely affecting some residents and be too unwieldy to manage.
- A merged council could look to cut staff numbers in order to avoid doubling up in roles and could end up being under-resourced. This would then lower the level of services being received by ratepayers.
- About rates, etc.
- About time.
- Absolutely Nil concerns (we should also combine all states of Australia). Rockdale Council has a known reputation as a corrupt council.
- Absolutely not.
- Access to Councillors after amalgamation will be more difficult.
- Access to councillors. Larger is not necessarily better.
- Accountability and service needs to be better, needs to run more economically efficient.
- All \$\$\$ accounted for and used wisely for community with fairness for different suburbs.
- All other options result in increased residential rates.
- Allocation of budgets.
- Allocation of resource and future improvement.
- Always a concern with councillors.
- Amalgamation should be able to reduce operating costs through removal of duplication and increase scale/benefit of larger councils.
- Amalgamations always cost more than predicted, both during changeover and eventually. Benefits are nearly always less than predicted. Top levels of bureaucracy are more remote and expensive than before.
- Amalgamations in Queensland were under-mined by self-interests of a few high profile councillors.
- Amalgamations will bring a lot of problems, the way we are now we are happy.
- As above, the larger the council the less the care for the individual and the individual communities about the council area.
- As above. Therefore one (i.e. Council) can manage its own affairs i.e. more person so the better outcome.
- As long as it doesn't end up costing more to the individual or more bureaucracy.
- As long as it is progressive no issues.

APPENDIX F

OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONCERNS EXPRESSED ABOUT AMALGAMATIONS

- As long as my rates don't increase then no.
- As long as savings are made and no duplication.
- Avoiding corrupt practices such as in [REDACTED] Appropriate services maintained.
- Becomes too big and is no longer a local council.
- Becomes too large in number like a political party.
- Becoming too big their service falls. Do not amalgamate with [REDACTED] just look at streets there, no good.
- Being 'big' is not the answer, being smaller and responsible for your local residents is my concern that will be lost.
- Big is not necessarily good or appropriate.
- Bigger budgets attracting more corruption.
- Bigger Council more waste e.g. money, wages, staff levels.
- Bigger is not better (Stand-alone/fix our problems).
- Botany, Marrickville and Canterbury have different cultures and social economic groups to Rockdale.
- Bribery and corruption on a grand scale.
- Bringing Marrickville's high level of debt into the local Council would not be a great plan. Don't understand the very high number of proposed staff in the St George option. Surely there would be significant cross-over of staff merging three offices into one?
- Cannot see any advantage to Rockdale who has so much open public space which could be hardly speculative people.
- Can't come soon enough for [REDACTED] Rockdale.
- [REDACTED] Council does a poor job already don't join them in.
- Certainly do. I think councils should be SMALLER. One for each suburb or postcode. Services such as waste removal, roads and footpaths could be provided by a regional state-supervised service provider.
- Change always yields concerns - I prefer to focus on opportunities. We should look at efficiencies and effectiveness and better value for public money. We don't want less than what we are getting from our Rockdale council on its own - we just want it done smarter.
- Change in level of services.
- Changes to rates and services, taking on debts of other councils.
- Changes to services and levels of service - why if staff numbers are maintained?
- Changes to services and service levels.
- Concentration of power. Different areas have different issues and priorities (people/tribes, should not be homogenised).
- Concerned about decrease to services and rate increases.
- Concerns about council services, where will council meetings be held.
- Consider this best option.
- Corruption.
- Cost savings aren't high enough, losing community interest.

APPENDIX F

OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONCERNS EXPRESSED ABOUT AMALGAMATIONS

- Could slow improvements.
- Council amalgamation is a good thing. The bigger the Council the better it is.
- Council amalgamation may cause financial problems.
- Council areas too big - smaller projects shelved.
- Council can't get a couple of suburbs right again, workers are going to lose their jobs.
- Council rate goes up.
- Council workers will lose their jobs.
- Councillor numbers must be reduce to reflect residential and area.
- Current councillors pushing and shoving to be a part of the new system.
- Debt, rate, rise, service.
- Declining services & corruption in a new form.
- Decreased library services.
- Definitely.
- Definitely, any amalgamation will involve significant changes.
- Definitely, it will give power to the stronger bodies and wipe out the weaker it is happening in all walks of life and I have witnessed at first hand.
- Depends which councils merge.
- Dilution of services, geographical concentration of facilities (i.e. poorer access to fewer, although perhaps improved, facilities), poorer management of civic space (already poor in Rockdale and most other Sydney councils).
- Diminishing of services. Disagreement over future planning, on second thoughts this can only improve . Where would council be housed if my second option occurred? It could be far away from our residents.
- Diverging or competing interests. Too large, can lose touch with residents' concerns.
- Do not raise Rates to cover bad council's spending.
- Do not understand why Option 2 council staff has to be sum of all 3 councils. Surely, there will be duplication of work.
- Do not want a change. Rockdale ok.
- Do not want Canterbury. Makes no sense.
- Do not want to have too many high rises.
- Do not want to pay too much rate.
- Do require a better service in most avenues.
- Doing more with less.
- Don't get too big, i.e. with Canterbury.
- Don't know.
- Don't know enough about this from other council experiences.
- Don't want amalgamation with Canterbury.
- Don't want Canterbury, don't really believe big councils work, I lived in Pittwater, the only small one in hundred years, good.

APPENDIX F

OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONCERNS EXPRESSED ABOUT AMALGAMATIONS

- Don't want it to be too big and lose local focus. Do not like the idea of Rockdale + Canterbury - too big.
- Don't want services to deteriorate or unrealistic rates.
- Don't want services to deteriorate or unrealistic rates.
- Equitable transfer of responsibilities to new system.
- Extra cost to residents.
- [REDACTED] coming in from Hurstville.
- Fear of residential rate increases.
- Fee/rates and service.
- Fees increase to be kept to minimum.
- Fewer service and longer waiting time to respond.
- Fully supportive of Council amalgamations. I work in the Digital Government space and see huge potentials for efficiencies.
- Future improvement would be hard in the future.
- Given services being pushed down from state and federal governments and shrinking revenues, it makes absolute sense for amalgamations to occur. It also means that council areas have to take a broader, more holistic view of the geographic area and region. Current boundaries are artificial and don't serve the wider needs of residents.
- Great idea.
- Happy the merge would be to rate payers benefit.
- Happy with what it is now, keep on the good work.
- Harder to interact personally with larger bodies.
- Have seen amalgamation, does not always work out.
- Higher rates, fewer services, less development and maintenance of recreational areas and social services.
- Higher rates, lower services.
- Higher rates, less service, job losses.
- Hope that rates don't increase and services decrease.
- How many ways will there be? How will 15 or 12 councillors service them.
- How will any form of amalgamation create better whole of catchment management when each council won't attempt it by themselves? Poor planning & increases in apartments that create ghettos & lowers standards of living. Lessening of open spaces & greater ability for corruption, which has never been reeled in since past corruption occurrences. The lessening of transparency & lack of respectful community consultations, not to mention the poor standard of councillor attendances & respect for community consultation as well as poor attendance to community meetings.
- How will services change? It could all waste so much money without any real gain for our community or any other. Isn't there a better way to reform ??
- Hurstville has everything [REDACTED] as a migrant we had to learn English and every nationality [REDACTED] English. The whole of Hurstville is [REDACTED] people to be there.

APPENDIX F

OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONCERNS EXPRESSED ABOUT AMALGAMATIONS

- [REDACTED] is dirty & overdeveloped & a traffic nightmare - a very slack Council.
- I agree with it, as it eliminates duplication of services and increases efficiencies.
- I also have property in Marrickville. The same consultants have been used for both councils (Morrison Low). But the information provided is different. e.g. for Rockdale they say Marrickville LGA has 81,689 residents but for Marrickville the same consultant says 82,523. Maybe because different year used but suggests sloppy or work biased towards what different councils want. Need accountability and comparability for consultants. Also how much is all this glossy consultancy brochures costing ratepayers?
- I am concerned about over development particularly if a merger with Kogarah/Hurstville councils proceed, increase in rates and loss of services.
- I am concerned 'money saving' is the main aim.
- I am concerned that the proposed St George Council may possibly inherit council policies and procedures from any merger with Canterbury and/or Marrickville Councils, which may clash with the current culture of the residents of the St George area - generally speaking I feel that the Botany Council belongs to the Eastern Suburbs and geographically appears separated from the St George area by the Airport.
- I am very concerned that the rates will increase because of the policies or legacy of joining councils. In addition I am concerned that services will be reduced despite the potential for greater efficiency of a larger council. If this does occur it will be the result of inheriting a legacy of mismanagement or incompetence in structuring the larger council.
- I believe there is more influence with a bigger representation of residents.
- I believe there will be increased cost.
- I can concerns about joining with Canterbury council for numerous reasons and would be quiet upset, if not devastated if that happened.
- I do have a concern about the ability of councillors to effectively represent more than double the number of constituents each under the amalgamation scheme, however I am not overall opposed to council amalgamations.
- I fear the consequence.
- I feel the needs of the residents of Rockdale City Council area will be lost in a merge. I would definitely not want to be part of Hurstville/St.George + Canterbury as I feel the general demographic would have a very different emphasis on services.
- I grew up in Bexley and it had its own Council and what a shame that changed.
- I have come to the conclusion that the State Government's motivation to amalgamate councils has more to do with shoring up political influence and party-building than any benefit to property owners.
- I have concerns about all councils spending too much on personal activities.
- I have concerns about the ability of all staff to adapt to a new way of working. The new entity would need a very strong transition committee with demonstrated change management capabilities across all areas of the organization.
- I have concerns about the ability of all staff to adapt to a new way of working. The new entity would need a very strong transition committee with demonstrated change management capabilities across all areas of the organization.
- I have concerns but it will happen eventually.

APPENDIX F

OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONCERNS EXPRESSED ABOUT AMALGAMATIONS

- I have concerns with budget, planning regulations, changes to locality values, staff jobs, not enough room.
- I heard Rockdale is one of the richest. Would we be sharing our council money with the other councils.
- I hope it improves.
- I hope we don't end up with 30 crap councillors under amalgamation. Keep the numbers to about 10 - hopefully then we won't have so many rubbish, corrupt, unrepresentative councillors. And let us elect the mayor so the rest of the dodgy bunch can't vote out a good mayor. The currents [REDACTED] mayor is great and I would hate to see him lost.
- I hope we will get the same excellent service as Rockdale.
- I live on the Grand Parade rates are high enough.
- I love it.
- I prefer not to amalgamate.
- I prefer stand-alone.
- I strongly disagree with the mayor.
- I think it's a great idea as long as it's the right bond and all have the same/a similar agenda.
- I think that there are great opportunities for staff development, progression and opportunities within a larger organisation than in a smaller organisation, if the amalgamation is carried out quickly, effectively and fairly. Unfortunately my personal experience in the area of amalgamations is that there is a lot of bias, blood letting and it takes a long time to resolve its self. The time lag in resolution is what really causes problems and staff fatigue. The fatigue comes with trying to do your job, cope with the numerous changes and unknown factors and the often nasty environment all at the same time - its very stressful when done well. It's even worse when it is not done well.
- I want them to run more efficiently.
- I wish that [REDACTED] was in management of all 6 suburbs to introduce his ideas and skills to save spending to all of us and properly as in Kogarah.
- I would not like to see Rockdale assume other councils' debts.
- I would not want to see rates increase or an increase in councillors and staff levels.
- If a few councils are merge, the operational cost should reduce e.g. building, staff and councillor. Rate should reduce.
- If amalgamation is necessary then these choices are the most logical.
- If amalgamation is too large it becomes an overwhelming responsibility.
- If councils are sustainable, they should 'stand-alone' not merge.
- If councils are too big how can they look after each section properly.
- If councils get too big-rate payers are not as well looked after.
- If involving councils outside St George such as Canterbury, Marrickville and Botany.
- If it is needed for financial constraints-then cleverer use of staff/facilities will grow.
- If not managed properly, bureaucratic bangles or corruption would eat away the efficiency of economy scale.
- If not managed properly, bureaucratic bangles or corruption would eat away the efficiency of economy scale.

APPENDIX F

OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONCERNS EXPRESSED ABOUT AMALGAMATIONS

- If part of a 'big' amalgamation/loss of community feel.
- If this gets through the Parliament-St George Council is the only option.
- If too large will lack service to households.
- I'm concerned that local issues will seem less important after council amalgamation.
- Imbalance of rates and facilities in different suburbs.
- Impact on land valuations? Cost per residents and debts existing other councils.
- Impossible to get any cooperation from Rockdale Council now. Would be even more difficult when residents become an even smaller. Get in a bigger wheel.
- In any council merger however, I have worries when council representation per resident is over 15,000. Business rates and land rates should stay stable or at the very least increase only so much as to keep up with community demand for services.
- In as much as amalgamation is a fait accompli then there's not much point in being negative. If amalgamation means more councillors there is the possibility that "old attachments" will result in political infighting, resulting in less constructive decision making. Just a case of politics getting in the way of rational thinking if councillor numbers remain the same there will be a increased work load for councillors which can also result in less productive decision making. "Old attachments" are likely to get in the way of rational thinking regardless of which councils amalgamate and since it's a fait accompli then councils should be prepared to work together and compromise for the good of all.
- In favour.
- Increase council rates.
- Increase in population density, traffic and increased rates.
- Increase of rate or decrease of services.
- Increase rates, decrease in service levels, less of a say in what happens in my area.
- Increased debt will result in increased rates.
- Increased debt, lack of access to councillors, drain on services.
- Increased rates and reduced services.
- Increased rates, decreased representation and services.
- Increases in council rates.
- Inefficiencies of Rockdale Council rubbing off on the others.
- Infighting by councillors for positions.
- Is it going to improve services? Loss of jobs, decrease of quality/speed in services.
- It appears that amalgamating councils would lead to government job cuts resulting in less people working for a greater population.
- It is a gross waste of money.
- It is going to cost more for rates and we will get even less than we do now.
- It is inevitable that it will happen.
- It may not consider 0-5 childcare needs in our area (a major priority).
- It needs improvements specially trees cutting and rubbish pickup in my street.
- It should save money for NSW.

APPENDIX F

OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONCERNS EXPRESSED ABOUT AMALGAMATIONS

- It will be better for the general public. Less running costs mean less costs to the ratepayer.
- It would be a fragmented council - not specific.
- It would be nice to think the transitions will be smooth and won't be a bargaining exercise where one council has to shutdown something because of another It would be great if the progress was transparent to all residents, e.g. through a website collecting responses to changes.
- It's inevitable - we are way over governed in Aust. should be Federal Government. No States but large regions.
- It's OK as long it all St George Area.
- I've watched green spaces disappear in Hurstville over the years. In Rockdale, the amount of open space is one of the great attractions of our municipality. Our forests, streams, wetlands and parks are a treasure shared by all residents. I would not like to see an amalgamation re-prioritise Council's commitment to preserving these great natural resources for future generations.
- Job losses.
- Job loss.
- Job losses, services reduction.
- Job security is always something that comes to mind but like our GM pointed out amalgamation will only bring about more employment.
- Keep Rockdale and Canterbury separate.
- Keep Rockdale Council as it is.
- Lack/loss of jobs.
- Large councils = Large debt = Impersonal service.
- Larger area means more impersonal service and lots of bureaucrats.
- Larger areas to attend to.
- Larger council areas lessen community and personal ratepayer identity.
- Larger isn't always better.
- Larger, efficiency, economy of scale not always best for community service.
- Less access to councillors poorer services.
- Less representation on local problems.
- Less say concerning local issues if amalgamated.
- Less services than current.
- Less services, job losses, more idiots running council.
- Let us choose rather than have it forced by NSW Government.
- Level of services and likely rate increases - less representation.
- Level of services decreased.
- Little people can get lost through the cracks of larger organisations.
- Local investment in infrastructure for community.
- Local issues being lost at larger levels.
- Local issues not getting priority e.g. Aquatic Centre.

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OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONCERNS EXPRESSED ABOUT AMALGAMATIONS

- Lose of the current services, i.e. quarterly clean-up, increase on rates, etc.
- Losing airport.
- Losing touch with needs of different suburb communities.
- Loss of airport funding, increased rates, lack of local representation.
- Loss of council jobs, more impersonal.
- Loss of identity, increase costs and debt level, reduced service level.
- Loss of income from losing the airport within the Rockdale City Council boundary.
- Loss of service, quality if council becomes too large.
- Loss of services and overdeveloped requirements.
- Loss of services or deterioration of them.
- Loss of services, higher rates, policies, transport.
- Loss of services, rate rises, corruption, over development.
- Loss of services/amenities; council will become harder to deal with.
- Main concern revolve around a fair distribution of resources and budget allocation.
- Major political parties would have more influence in time, too much power could occur.
- Makes sense.
- Making council areas larger is not always best. It does not reduce the cost of operation. Several smaller areas may not be as susceptible to corruption as this would take the effort of several forces. One large area is more susceptible to corruption as this would take the effort of only one force. This result would affect many more people and businesses.
- Many.
- Many concerns about amalgamations. The 1 billion offered by the State Government could be actually given to the Councils to improve assets and infrastructure rather than beating them down and forcing mergers that provide no benefit.
- Marrickville's debt situation.
- Maybe more corruption.
- Merging with Hurstville or Canterbury would be marrying duds.
- Merging with Marrickville Council.
- Mismanagement + higher operating costs + higher rates.
- Money being pooled and not spent in local areas fairly.
- More bureaucracy.
- More [REDACTED] pay offs.
- More councillor aloof-power and less service.
- More efficient, cost saving.
- More inefficiencies in large organisations.
- More jobs for the boys.
- More money needed to keep/maintain services to a good standard.
- More problem having a voice in matters.

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OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONCERNS EXPRESSED ABOUT AMALGAMATIONS

- More residents per Councillor.
- More self-righteous, arrogant councils. Unfair, absurd decisions, hurting residents.
- More than 3 - Yes.
- Most councils are incompetent.
- Must have paid councillors with clear KPI's and training in business.
- My concerns about merged councils is a decrease in service quality, longer response times to queries and processing of council work.
- My concerns are the costs/debt for residents would rise.
- My main concern is lack of councillor access. Merger will mean that councillors will represent at least double constituents.
- My only concern is that implementation is left in the hands of those with most to lose from amalgamation and so they will either argue against amalgamation or if overridden by the community/state government they will do a shoddy job of amalgamating.
- My only concern is we will require all 3 councils to agree on matters.
- Need smaller Government enterprises, not larger.
- Need to happen to ensure better productivity and use of resources.
- Need to have councillors who turn up to every meeting, otherwise replace them.
- Never go with bull dogs.
- No x 254.
- No - amalgamation would lead to better utilisation of resources.
- No (Rockdale Council needs a serious wakeup call).
- No as it needs to happen to achieve budget and service delivery improvements.
- No concern, about time. long overdue for reform.
- No concerns we have too many and money is wasted.
- No concerns. It is essential. Don't care about a reduction in councillors as we have 15 and I only see about 3 actually involved. Pay them more money, send them on Australian director's courses and make them seriously accountable. Plus, a better resourced communications team is really what you need to engage people - use Facebook, etc more. Not stacks of councillors who refuse to go to meetings.
- No I don't, it has to happen, there's way too many government workers and too many levels of governance, there has to be a large change to the current system.
- No it makes sense to amalgamate as doubling up of councils is more cost effective Country shires are large and manageable.
- No really.
- No really, but pleased about economies of scale.
- No the sooner the better.
- No way I think the positives should always out way the negatives so just get on with it. Average rate of \$811-from where do you get your numbers from \$1200. Paid \$809 in 2004.
- No, am just pleased that we were not rated below par in comparison to the rest of the state, although I was hoping for better.

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OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONCERNS EXPRESSED ABOUT AMALGAMATIONS

- No, another option merge all above. Why NIL Wolli meeting to discuss this.
- No, as long as all work for the common good and work together.
- No, as long as councils merges with councils of South Easter areas only.
- No, as long as not with Marrickville.
- No, as long as services don't deteriorate.
- No, as long as the amalgamation does not cause any decrease to the levels of services currently provided by all Councils concerned.
- No, as long as the services are carried out.
- No, bring it on quick. Cut down on waste.
- No, bring it on, anything to cut waste and reduce unions.
- No, come to late.
- No, economy of scale will improve service. Problem of resident/councillor is a no brainer, one never sees them. Voting is usually on party lines anyway.
- No, efficiency, cost reduction, less debt is the game to play.
- No, frankly it would improve things-Rockdale is one of the laziest councils I have resided in.
- No, happy with consolidation.
- No, hopefully will reduce number of lazy/inept councillors [REDACTED]
- No, I agree to amalgamate.
- No, I am in favour.
- No, I believe amalgamations are inevitable to reduce individual entities. This is State Government goal.
- No, I cannot wait for it to happen (too many councils).
- No, I encourage this.
- No, I have been advocating regional councils for 20years+.
- No, I support it.
- No, I think it is a very important initiative to ensure the best return for rate payers and the district.
- No, I think it is better to amalgamate.
- No, I think it's a good idea for more considered and streamlined practices.
- No, I think it's a good thing and the best option for the future. I find Rockdale's rates to be very high compared to many other larger council areas with levies and additional charges galore and yet less services provided e.g. few footpaths.
- NO, I wish for Mr Baird to get on with it!
- No, if it reduces the number of greedy councillors.
- No, if rate don't go up.
- No, if we are no worst off.
- No, infighting and no favoritism. Amalgamation for economic reasons i.e. cut costs/expenses and stabilise rates. Introduce user pays for all council services i.e. parks and sporting grounds.

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OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONCERNS EXPRESSED ABOUT AMALGAMATIONS

- No, it does make sense.
- No, it is needed, too much duplications in council's business.
- No, it is the future.
- No, it would be beneficial for Rockdale to be able to share in a larger pool of funding.
- No, it's about time for a change.
- No, it's the obvious future.
- No, just bin sizes and rates don't keep increasing.
- No, less staff save money, fix problems.
- No, not at all.
- No, only concerns will be councillors and bureaucrats. Community doesn't care.
- No, only you councils do. This is a waste you will never allow this merger to happen.
- No, other than councils should catch up with the modern world.
- No, really need to accept that it will happen.
- No, reduce the Local Government staff will be good, reduce duplication.
- No, should all be eliminated i.e. State Government only.
- No, so long as the council rates do not increase.
- No, that's great.
- No, the bigger the better, however needs to have clear accountabilities and KPI's. Run like a business not like a political party.
- No, they are all the same, no difference.
- No, they are great, too many councils already.
- No, this will be good for rate payers.
- No, too many duplication of management, need to amalgamate. I never use or bribe councillors so reduced to 1 or 2 or 3 overall.
- No, we need amalgamations.
- No, we need Federal Government and bigger councils only.
- No, we support amalgamations.
- No, will mean less local Government doubling up - country shires are bigger.
- No. I fully support the formation of St George City Council.
- No. There are far too many councils in Sydney.
- No. I've previously lived in a large council areas and the facilities we had were much better than Rockdale's.
- No-great ideas.
- Non local councils.
- None.
- None - I think it is a good thing.
- None at all.
- None at all, I reckon it's appropriate to boast better businesses.

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OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONCERNS EXPRESSED ABOUT AMALGAMATIONS

- None at all. My preference would be for large councils and self dissolution of states (as if that would ever happen).
- None at all. Should have happen decades ago.
- None if they work for and with the community.
- None that I can see at present.
- None whatsoever.
- None whatsoever. What a great idea.
- None, I think there are economics of scales in the amalgamation process.
- None. We have far too many local government areas in NSW and mergers will create operational efficiencies and reduce overhead costs significantly.
- No-only if we take Marrickville debt!
- Not.
- Not any.
- Not at all.
- Not at all asap will be better.
- Not at all, they will allow for more efficient Council practices and a better range of services.
- Not at all. It is about time.
- Not at the moment, may have in the future.
- Not bad idea.
- Not if done correctly and no council infighting and wasting of tax payers money.
- Not if its managed properly.
- Not if my option 1 gets in.
- Not if Rockdale Council can provide same facilities as Bardwell park station i.e. a lift.
- Not if they are organised by experts.
- Not if they deliver promised benefits.
- Not known.
- Not particularly if Government want it.
- Not really x 5.
- Not really as long as all parties are on same page.
- Not really as long as ratepayer needs one met and no extra costs involved.
- Not really just don't want too huge area.
- Not really, want to keep the same or more jobs, should not be an excuse to cull council staff or services.
- Not really. But I don't believe there would be any benefit for Rockdale residents in joining with Canterbury council. I don't think we have the same kind of people or work ethic. I think it would drive property prices down in this Current market to be associated with that area.
- Not really. Is long overdue.
- Not really. It's always been mad having three separate Councils for St George. Waste of money and it duplicates administration.

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OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONCERNS EXPRESSED ABOUT AMALGAMATIONS

- Not really. Would help reduce overhead costs in the long run.
- Not so sure about other councils.
- Not supporting this view.
- Not these three.
- Not with new St George Council.
- Not yet, Rockdale City rates and services are ok, don't know the others.
- Number of people per Councillors.
- One of the ways to go forward if managed responsibly.
- Only concern customer service and service delivery, don't want rate payers to suffer.
- Only if amalgamated with Kogarah, then no concerns.
- Only if it increases rates or reduces services and planning laws/regulations.
- Only in relation to increase of residential rates.
- Only one option of amalgamation if there is no way out.
- Only that if they're too large, it may mean decisions will take longer to be made, efficiencies may be lost - and perhaps there may be too many indecisions.
- Only that it remains economically and culturally sensible i.e. not degrading these aspects.
- Only that rates don't go up!
- Only that some services will suffer but with experience and time it will work out.
- Only that the council gets worse if we amalgamate with an inferior council.
- Only that they are practical not driven by greed and egos.
- Only that we will lose the Airport council.
- Only the number of councillors down necessary. Business always cutting heads. Government Councillors should look to do same.
- Only the possibility of rate increases (I am a pensioner).
- Other Councils debt and use of rates.
- Other councils which have amalgamated have lost their personal touch and there doesn't seem to be many benefits from amalgamation.
- Our rates better not rise to match either Kogarah or Hurstville.
- Our rates may go up. The fire station might close.
- Over development, rate increase.
- People become a number!
- People jobs losses.
- Plan, house price, infrastructure.
- Please don't forget about refurbishing Bexley Pool.
- Population growth is too rapid. Not enough funds allocated for bus lanes.
- Population per councillor and amalgamated debts.
- Possibility of higher council vote.
- Possible agreement to over development.

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OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONCERNS EXPRESSED ABOUT AMALGAMATIONS

- Potential rationalisation of services, e.g. public libraries.
- Prefer it not to happen.
- Presuming main push for amalgamation is financial and possibly designed to increase state control.
- Quality of services must not decline.
- Rate changes and reduction in service.
- Rate increase and reduced services.
- Rate increases and customer service jobs being outsourced to India, China, etc.
- Rates.
- Rates could increase & services decrease.
- Rates Increase and lack of community representation and care.
- Rates increasing and service decreasing.
- Rates must come down or there is no point in amalgamating.
- Rates will go up more.
- Really don't want to see huge amalgamations-smaller is better and most suited to have interests of residents at heart.
- Reduced efficiency due to large size.
- Reduced level of services.
- Reduced service or service accessibility.
- Reduced services.
- Reduction in services/access to councillors.
- Reduction in specialised services.
- Remember you are using rate payer's money.
- Reservations on all options but 'best fit' Bayside/Airport council.
- Resident issues lost in a mega council, similar to a State Government.
- Rise in rates.
- [REDACTED] Council - worst.
- Rockdale Council does not need other council's problems.
- Rockdale will lose a lot with amalgamations.
- Saving money, better service and faster service.
- Saving of \$5 per resident is irrelevant with the amount of wastage at Federal and State level.
- See '2' Council's should not be able to 'become' 'city'.
- See above, plus being saddled with other councils' debts and possibly very different communities.
- See above. I have no second preference apart from Rockdale City Council Stand-alone.
- Service level down.
- Service levels maintained.
- Service levels to customers, budget efficiencies.

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OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONCERNS EXPRESSED ABOUT AMALGAMATIONS

- Service won't be as good and stay with St George.
- Service would be less, respond would be slower.
- Services and costs increase.
- Services down, rates up congestion (road/traffic) debt up.
- Services loss of representation.
- Sharing resources and councils compete for priority of spending.
- Shifting of State costs to councils without funds.
- Should have happened many years ago.
- Should never be forced, only voluntary.
- Should reduce staff numbers.
- Since this has to happen my concern is which council we are best suited to amalgamate with. I think when we do amalgamate the transition should be well planned and executed or it can be detrimental for its success.
- So long as the outcome for residents is no negative impact and a cohesive and efficient service, no concerns.
- Some areas are growing more rapidly than others.
- Some indicators in the brochure are not that relevant - for example - each option increases no. residents per Councillor (my guess is this is why the government is amalgamating - they want more residents per councillor - so highly unlikely Rockdale stand-alone will be selected.) Same as Changes to Services and LOS's - obviously amalgamation does this - I would have preferred to see better indicators to help choose which amalgamation e.g. reduction in rates feasibility, increased profit - therefore better park facilities etc.
- Some may lose jobs, but departments may merge/increase.
- Some of the policies Marrickville has I do not agree with.
- St George Council amalgamation would be satisfactory.
- Staff losing jobs, decrease in customer service standards.
- Stand-alone councils can't service us as it is. Do not merge.
- Stand-alone is best.
- Stop amalgamations.
- 'Super councils' shall not equitably allocate resources.
- Taking on debt from other councils.
- That amalgamations may not realise the benefits the state government believes they will. Is it simply a cost-saving exercise? In a three-tier government system like Australia, there is not a hugely compelling reason to have large local councils - large local councils argue for a transfer of activities and funding from the state government to the councils. There's not a strong case for a national, state, and regional council structure.
- That change is smooth and positive.
- That council/internal/organisation interests prevail over ratepayer interests, but it is good to see a proactive approach and this community engagement.
- That current councils will push through 'wish lists' prior to amalgamate.
- That it will become even more corrupt (drinking [REDACTED])!!!

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OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONCERNS EXPRESSED ABOUT AMALGAMATIONS

- That services (such as garbage collection, etc) will decrease.
- That they become too large that services suffer or subsidise other areas in the newly designated council jurisdiction in an inequitable manner.
- That you will reduce staff and expect same workload.
- The above. Too many people do have local problems considered.
- The amalgamations must prevent over-duplication of services and thereby improve efficiencies and the maintenance of essential infrastructure.
- The costs involved. Job losses and mergers of services to the community.
- The debt owing of the other councils.
- The efficient sections will have to subsidise the inefficient ones.
- The financial question is How much if any airport revenue would this merger sacrifice and what impact this would have on council revenue Ref. RSC future booklet option 6; Things To Consider. Point 1.
- The impact of amalgamating with an industrial area like Marrickville.
- The Local Government Act 1993 may have to be changed to accommodate the needs of larger councils (i.e. more councillors per council/residents).
- The overall service, quality in terms of public health, security and infrastructure.
- The quicker the better.
- The ratepayers in this area should not be paying to clean up the beachfronts of rubbish left by people from adjacent areas, it should be shared around & amalgamation would ensure this.
- The rates will not be affected, customer service, how actually the residents would benefit from the merger.
- The sooner the better.
- The State Government should spend the money on things that are actually needed. I think an amalgamation will be very disruptive to services and planning and our current standards will change.
- There is a need for more effective executive power. The Mayor should be directly elected separate from the council.
- There is no guarantee the service level will remain the same. Will become less community oriented and impersonal.
- There is no information to convince me to support amalgamation just a threat by the State Government.
- There will be bearers and difficulties with the change over.
- They are not familiar but new relationship will be exciting.
- They may not be as efficient.
- They should meet an acceptable financial management plan.
- They will not have enough personal to help us.
- This larger option means added personnel for each councillor to be responsible for.
- Time will tell if it works, high rise must not be allowed to get out of hand.

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OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONCERNS EXPRESSED ABOUT AMALGAMATIONS

- To merge with any other councils seems to put more financial strain then benefit on our councils.
- Too big lack of service/care by staff and councillors.
- Too big, all of Botany Bay plus large parks, etc.
- Too big, more problems to cope with.
- Too big, too many issues and same level of attention to each will be compromised, concerns about a strong pro-development lobby changing the individual character of a council area.
- Too large a council is too hard to cover all needs.
- Too large a population.
- Too large and no knowledge of the other councils policies and rates.
- Too large to manage.
- Too many borders, two is enough.
- Too many Councillor, will you reduce number?
- Too many Councillors.
- Too many managers.
- Too many rules-over governance and less service.
- Too much money available to too many people.
- Transition worries.
- Very good idea. I hope this come long time ago.
- Victoria went through this entire exercise under Jeff Kennett. Surely there must be some data or evidence to substantiate that amalgamations work. Please SHOW US!!!!
- We are concerned about this option St George & Canterbury Council.
- We do not want the burden of Marrickville's debt.
- We like Kogarah, Hurstville cities.
- We think it is needed.
- Well, I hope efficient systems and work practices will be in place to allay any concerns.
- What about people's job, leave everything as it is!
- What to do with disproportionate Councillors in Councils and Staff.
- What's to be gained.
- While I doubt the claims sometimes made for savings from amalgamations, I see no problems flowing from my preferences, even though Hurstville Council will bring a larger debt. Rockdale seems one of the better managed councils but a larger administrative unit such as St George Council seems to have advantages.
- While shared resources/operations may benefit councils through amalgamation. I see a loss of individual needs of each council and prioritising of needs.
- Why can't we get councils to be more efficient without the cost of amalgamations? The state government hasn't taken anything into account other than the bottom line. Even clever businesses consider more. If you put several poor or mediocre councils together you might get scale but not capacity. In fact, the council (s) that are better in the group may reduce the quality and level of service.

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OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONCERNS EXPRESSED ABOUT AMALGAMATIONS

- Why change when everything is ok.
- Why is it necessary 'if it ain't broke...!'
- Why not merge Kogarah/Rockdale/Botany Bay.
- Why not the amalgamation if rates are reduced.
- Why = (also rates up ???).
- Will bigger councils mean councillors will be more removed from residents.
- Will Council rates go up after amalgamation?
- Will councillors increase proportionally?
- Will it mean increased rates and decreased services?
- Will larger size (and same staff numbers) reduce efficiency? I have been very happy with Rockdale council.
- Will there be an increase in Councillors to the increased number of residents.
- Will there be more corruption with developers-about high rise on a bigger scale.
- Will this mean that councils & councillors will be even more removed from the people. Hope we get the best of whatever happens.
- With '2' adds to the debt.
- Wondering where council would be located? Have real concerns about a 'super' council of 4 areas too large to be effective.
- Worried that cost predictions may not be accurate or may change after commitment.
- Would like more information about the 'Improvement program'.
- Would only agree if it was written into agreement that rates will decrease by x% and never rise by more than CPI.
- Would rather it didn't occur.
- Yeah, too big but no one will listen. I guess you have got to do what you have got to do.
- Yes x 58.
- YES - merging with weak debt ridden councils will create more costs for residents. Increased rates through amalgamation is not fair - if costs are rationalised, rates should decrease.
- Yes - Rockdale does an excellent job-others not so good.
- Yes - that we end up with a parochial St. George council.
- Yes - we will lose a lot of revenue from the airport.
- Yes (infighting between councillors).
- Yes a Council like [REDACTED] is rubbish.
- Yes and need more information on finances.
- Yes big time each one wants different things, arguments, own benefits, etc.
- Yes but Kogarah would be the best choice.
- Yes corruption, a wider option for corruption.
- Yes -financial.
- Yes I would prefer things stay the way they are now - being too big ratepayers will obviously miss out on good service.

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OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONCERNS EXPRESSED ABOUT AMALGAMATIONS

- Yes it would complicate things.
- Yes maybe higher fees.
- Yes of course, but there is not sufficient space here to a reply.
- Yes rates will increase and Council's get too large. Amalgamations won't necessarily make Council's fit for the future.
- Yes taking on other debt.
- Yes the possibility of loss of Rockdale council's share of airport revenue which may mean that we residents will need to pay higher fees to help cover this loss.
- Yes there may be an oversupply of councillors who still do nothing. They need to meet criteria such as attending at least 80% of meetings and need to meet KPI's to ensure they are eligible for reelection.
- Yes too little effort done by those elected.
- Yes would affect quality service we receive.
- Yes would be very concerned if Rockdale joined with Botany & Marrickville council they aren't even close to us and would affect adversely affect all sporting bodies.
- Yes, areas will be too big for adequate services.
- Yes, as a ratepayer I don't wish to take on another council's debt or problems.
- Yes, as above.
- Yes, as I can see little if any benefit to us by a merger.
- Yes, as long as each one is happy to combine.
- Yes, because all expenses seems to up instead of down.
- Yes, because it doesn't seem to have too much benefit more an exercise on looking good on paper.
- Yes, big councils have less affiliation with local people.
- Yes, bigger councils open more to wastage/corruption over the long term.
- Yes, bigger is not better/less is more.
- Yes, bigger is not usually better and am disappointed in my council.
- Yes, but then the local Government/State Government debate should be had. 3 levels of Government is 1 too many.
- Yes, can't see much improving with amalgamation.
- Yes, communications will be worst.
- Yes, contact with council representatives and council workers.
- Yes, cost cutting that may undermine council priorities and efficiency.
- Yes, cost of implementation. Poor councillors egos.
- Yes, cost of implementing high. Long payback period, poor councillor representation.
- Yes, councillors at all 3 councils are very poor/low standard.
- Yes, create more problems Hurstville has no proper infrastructure for the large amount of [REDACTED] high rise.
- Yes, definitely with Marrickville, Botany or Canterbury councils.

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OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONCERNS EXPRESSED ABOUT AMALGAMATIONS

- Yes, different policies across different councils.
- Yes, do not like the idea of a bigger council coming into our area (which runs very well) and forcing their ideas on to us.
- Yes, do not merge with Kogarah or Hurstville.
- Yes, do not mix with Canterbury.
- Yes, do not want this.
- Yes, don't need added debts with limited incomes.
- Yes, don't want it.
- Yes, drop in service levels, imbalance in mix in population.
- Yes, each councillor would vote for his area. Too many arguments.
- Yes, especially if forced.
- Yes, fee increasing to cover other areas shortfall.
- Yes, financial.
- Yes, forecast is negative for Rockdale.
- Yes, harder to get things done. I'd rather do away with the State Government.
- Yes, high risk strategy, and disempowering of local politics.
- Yes, higher density, less service.
- Yes, higher rates & less services than currently provided.
- Yes, how these merges will affect us ratepayers i.e. high rates, etc.
- Yes, how will garbage collection be affected? Where will the council chambers be?
- Yes, how will it affect me.
- Yes, Hurstville, Canterbury, Marrickville & Botany Bay are not money wasting policies.
- Yes, I am concerned mostly about the disruption to council services and the awful impact that these sorts of restructures have on our loyal hard working council staff.
- Yes, I believe a large council like Rockdale should stand-alone.
- Yes, I don't want RCC assets swallowed by too many councils diluting services already available.
- Yes, I fear we will end up paying more.
- Yes, I feel council will use it as an excuse to lift rates. I fear a lowest common denominates for services, i.e. a drop in quality.
- Yes, I have always said 'big is not best' amalgamation of St George County community and Sydney was a case in point.
- Yes, I think bigger is not better.
- Yes, I think larger councils are unwieldy and would lose sight of what is in the best interests of the residents. Any merger with Canterbury, Botany or Marrickville would destroy our St George identity.
- Yes, if it is with Hurstville or Canterbury.
- Yes, if they are too big you lose the 'human touch' also Rockdale's balance sheet shows in their favour.

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OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONCERNS EXPRESSED ABOUT AMALGAMATIONS

- Yes, if they impact services offered by the Council.
- Yes, infighting.
- Yes, income from general and business rates may be spread too wide. Differences of opinions and decisions within councils could occur regarding the requirements and spending in the separate localities.
- Yes, increase in rates, decrease in representation and decrease open space.
- Yes, increased costs due to increased staff despite what is said and implemented.
- Yes, increased in rates???
- Yes, increased rates and diminished services.
- Yes, increased rates, decreased services.
- Yes, increased rates. No AAAC star rating crap.
- Yes, increased rates/reduced services.
- Yes, it is too big.
- Yes, it means increase in rates.
- Yes, it must incur significant costs.
- Yes, it should have happened a long time ago.
- Yes, it will definitely be too busy and poor service will result.
- Yes, it would not add benefits.
- Yes, it's a bad idea councils must be local but work together.
- Yes, I've heard some stories about other councils not looking after financials properly.
- Yes, job loss already happening at other council e.g. Waverley 24 positions gone.
- Yes, Kogarah is only a lesser evil than the others. Why go further than necessary.
- Yes, lack of access to council, reduction in services due to increased area. Larger bureaucracy without local knowledge or interest.
- Yes, lack of services.
- Yes, large Councils won't do as good a job as small ones in makeup/community.
- Yes, large population breeds more problems, costs, etc.
- Yes, larger area to control, disagreements would occur as to what suburbs would receive the most attention.
- Yes, larger council means less say and harder to get council help.
- Yes, less contact with councillors.
- Yes, less jobs for council workers and slower/less services.
- Yes, less people working for us means nothing will get done.
- Yes, less presentation, overwhelmed councils who have no ability to deal with the issues of the people they represent.
- Yes, less services.
- Yes, less services and more debt.
- Yes, less services and more greed.

APPENDIX F

OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONCERNS EXPRESSED ABOUT AMALGAMATIONS

- Yes, level of representation.
- Yes, levels of debts!
- Yes, loathe [REDACTED] Council and how they 'operate'.
- Yes, local councillor look after their own interests before those of ratepayers.
- Yes, local issues require ongoing attention.
- Yes, losing the income that council gets from airport.
- Yes, loss of focus and care.
- Yes, loss of identity, loss of services....why have councils??? just have State-same thing.
- Yes, loss of representation.
- Yes, loss of services and standards provided to rate payers, increased congestion resulting in ghetto conditions.
- Yes, lots.
- Yes, major vested interests of politicians.
- Yes, many.
- Yes, many obvious changes to the way the local community will operate/function/feel.
- Yes, many.
The state government hasn't, I believe, made a case for or proven that amalgamation is in the best interests of residents nor has it shown that councils will be financially viable. Regardless of what is being said amalgamation is being imposed. Offering councils financial inducements to amalgamate is a "concern". Bigger is not necessarily better. Many people already feel disengaged from their elected members in state and federal government. At local government level residents have better access to and interaction with their councillors. They can also be involved in local aspects that affect their day to day lives. Amalgamation will increase the ratio of residents to councillors which will make it more difficult to access councillors. Again feeling removed /disengaged from elected representatives. The state government could be, inadvertently, increasing the financial burden on residents and running costs of councils. With the increased ratio of residents to councillors and the physical size of LGA expanding the workload of councillors would undeniably increase. Apart from the demands of individual residents, items for council deliberation would escalate. How would this be accommodated? Longer council meetings or more frequent meetings? As the workload increased would it necessitate the position of councillor becoming a full time job? This would have a financial impact on council's budget, full time salaries plus entitlements times the number of councillors. Amalgamation would, I believe, impact on potential candidates for councillor positions. With the inevitable increase in workload and increased area to cover many may find the demand on their time excessive. Residents want local people to run for council. I believe that the increased physical size of amalgamated LGAs and the increased ratio of residents to councillors would be merely duplicating state government. Regardless of the political party in power, this would NOT be a good thing.
- Yes, merging with councils not as efficient as Rockdale.
- Yes, more corruption.
- Yes, more council workers (not efficient).
- Yes, more high rise buildings, higher rates.
- Yes, more problems, cannot agree on issues.

APPENDIX F

OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONCERNS EXPRESSED ABOUT AMALGAMATIONS

- Yes, more residents per councillor means longer queues/waiting periods.
- Yes, most amalgamations does not reach its purpose for its plans is affected by another governing body or Council.
- Yes, much less customer service. Please remember to communicate the full results on this survey online and in print, we have taken time to respond please extend a similar courtesy.
- Yes, not personal. Contact with Ward member.
- Yes, not all same politically.
- Yes, not always efficient, especially when mismanaged by self-interested bureaucrats.
- Yes, not enough local identity.
- Yes, of course.
- Yes, one that councillors are against. Amalgamation for the reason they stand to lose their position of power and influence.
- Yes, others may have debt.
- Yes, our local concerns may not be addressed, in favour of other areas which may have larger population(larger voice).
- Yes, our services will be reduced like [REDACTED] Council who only pick up the red bins every 2 weeks!
- Yes, overstaffing, big debts, mismanagement, non-homogeneous community is of concern.
- Yes, poorer service.
- Yes, possibly in future Hurstville [REDACTED] population, not thinking like Rockdale residents.
- Yes, prefer as is.
- Yes, rates increase.
- Yes, rates increasing.
- Yes, reduced services. Difficult already only makes it worst.
- Yes, reduced services. Less councillors/head population. More infighting and therefore wasted resources.
- Yes, resource allocations, rate changes, reduction in service.
- Yes, [REDACTED] council makes a good job of stuffing up alone. why include others esp corrupt [REDACTED]
- Yes, Rockdale does not provide good services for rubbish, illegal dumping, etc. if they amalgamate services will not improve. Council rates will increase.
- Yes, Rockdale stay as you are you are wonderful council.
- Yes, see (2).
- Yes, service, rates and costs.
- Yes, services may be reduced, normal at the moment.
- Yes, services will be reduced and spread too thinly.
- Yes, services would not be as good to our area.
- Yes, size does not guarantee quality with efficiency, lack of accountability in large councils.
- Yes, some councils are run better than others.

APPENDIX F

OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONCERNS EXPRESSED ABOUT AMALGAMATIONS

- Yes, some suburbs may be ignored.
- Yes, State Government is moving ever closer to regional Government areas. The 'local' component is disappearing.
- Yes, that council rates will increase.
- Yes, that it's only reasons are raise rates, move the goal posts, etc.
- Yes, that Parks and Beach maintenance will suffer.
- Yes, that people will be driven by cheap rates and not see the big picture.
- Yes, that we merge with councils that will take our diversity backwards not forwards. We're already multicultural. Let's join with the fun & funky neighbours for good coffee & food: it will increase house prices as the area becomes more desirable.
- Yes, the area would be too big to look after.
- Yes, the creation of amalgamations would result in 'mini states'.
- Yes, the debt level of Marrickville, never identified & Canterbury or Botany Council.
- Yes, the majority of councillors have not experience education of intelligence to run business of this size - appoint an experienced administrator.
- Yes, the 'melting pot' of revenue will create a monster in relation as to where finances should be allocated. First option try to keep Rockdale boundaries unchanged and one council.
- Yes, the only amalgamation worth considering seems to be The Bayside/Airport option.
- Yes, the quality of the services may decrease if there are forced amalgamations. Having larger organisations doesn't necessarily mean services improve and you only have to look at other organisations that have merged to see that it doesn't always work out for the better. The amalgamations in Victoria are an example of how it can fail.
- Yes, the rate payers will be contributing to the costs of matters not relevant to us.
- Yes, the reduction in access to Councillors.
- Yes, the rise in rates.
- Yes, the significantly increase number of residents per councillor means that the needs of the community may not be addressed. The changes to services and levels of service may be compromised in the longer term.
- Yes, they become too big and staff/overheads become top heavy.
- Yes, they will cost rate payers more money. Should be a popular Mayor and cut to the number of councillors.
- Yes, to many to list.
- Yes, too big means less personal service.
- Yes, too big, less support to dweller needs.
- Yes, too big, more problems.
- Yes, too big, too much power play, local issues ignored.
- Yes, too large, will not serve to local community, local area.
- Yes, too many to list on one line here.
- Yes, too much confusion.
- Yes, too much power to councillors.

APPENDIX F

OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONCERNS EXPRESSED ABOUT AMALGAMATIONS

- Yes, too much red tape, leave every Council along and do their improvement.
- Yes, we do not want amalgamation.
- Yes, we do not want it (period).
- Yes, we don't want other people's debts.
- Yes, we may be liable to pay debt of another council.
- Yes, we will be lost in the numbers.
- Yes, we will get poor service.
- Yes, what would become of our new pool library? Revamped civil chamber, etc.
- Yes, who controls, which council has ratepayer benefits.
- Yes, why? One services brings to be better-rates cheaper, etc. I think not.
- Yes, will not work, financially weak councils will be merged with financially strong councils breeding animosity and instability (political) between old council areas and new - high resident to councillor ratio impractical and inefficient.
- Yes, with Canterbury Council, Cultural differences far too diverse plus NIL benefits for ratepayers.
- Yes, worried that services to area will decline.
- Yes, worries that the same level of services might not be maintained.
- Yes, you need a council to understand local issues.
- Yes. It drags the well resourced Councils down and benefits those that are not doing too well. If any amalgamation has to happen, it is imperative to examine first very closely the reasons why a Council is not doing too well financially, etc and ensure that this is not due to mismanagement of resources, unjustifiably high subsidies, poor planning, etc. If it is then the better placed Council and its ratepayers are clearly going to be disadvantaged.
- Yes. Larger = less contact with community = less commitment.
- Yes. There are many issues about how we function within our communities that could change: many are simple e.g. how many waste bins, clean-ups per year etc to more significant attitudes to tree preservation, open space or developments etc. This important decision will impact on our living conditions and the nature of our communities.
- Yes: reduction of services.
- Yes - our main concern is that we will lose services and facilities.
- Yes - too many to list down in one line.

APPENDIX G OTHER FEEDBACK

EMAIL

The super council. You say that with the combination of several councils, you are befitting from the economies of scale and cost will be lower.

But why do you plan to increase Rates due to the mergers?

EMAIL

We wish to advise you that we do not approve of the amalgamation of the 3, maybe 4, St George Councils.

Rockdale Council provides its ratepayers with a very good service and if we were to lose income of around \$600,000 it would impact greatly on us, the ratepayers.

It is only fair that Rockdale residents receive the benefits of this income as the area concerned is within our boundaries.

Other councils which have amalgamated have lost their personal touch and there doesn't seem to be many benefits from amalgamation.

Once again we wish to oppose this proposal.

PHONE CALL

Why did Council not state their performance against the Fit for the Future benchmarks and why have you taken so long to get out to the community about Fit for the Future?

PHONE CALL

Concerned that Council will be forced to amalgamate even if we respond as a Stand-alone Council.

APPENDIX G OTHER FEEDBACK

Letter

Thursday April 16, 2015

Mayor Shane O'Brien,
Rockdale City Council

Dear Mayor O'Brien,

Having read your Council's "Fit for the Future"
publication, I have decided that the "Bayside/
Airport Council" Option would be appropriate:

1. The Airport is "on the doorstep" + historic links....
2. There'd be a slight increase in % debt/budget
[$\approx 9\% \rightarrow 12\%$]; low and "manageable"....
3. Although "financial sustainability or financial
outlook assessments" are not currently met,
the "future" will "look after" that problem....
(e.g. infrastructure projects, increased population
e.g. bringing B&B, increased business activity, etc.)

Happy to be kept "in the loop"...

Best wishes,

*RESIDENT

ROCKDALE CITY COUNCIL
RECEIVED

21 APR 2015

AUSTRALIAN POST

APPENDIX G OTHER FEEDBACK

Letter

General Manager
Rockdale Council
PO BOX 21
ROCKDALE

ROCKDALE CITY COUNCIL
RECEIVED

26 MAY 2015

AUSTRALIAN POST

Dear Sir,

23rd May 2015

ROCKDALE CITY'S FUTURE

Dear Sir,

I would just like to set out my thoughts on proposed amalgamations which are being driven by NSW Government.

If we do have to have an amalgamation I think the only sensible solution would be to have Kogarah, Rockdale & Hurstville as one super St. George Council. Rockdale does share some boundaries including Cooks River with Canterbury Council but other than that I do not think their local government area has much in common with Rockdale. Proximity to the airport and foreshore.

At the moment Rockdale, Kogarah & Hurstville share garbage, Library and other services which all makes sense.

I strongly disagree with the adjustment of the Airport boundary which would mean that Rockdale Council would lose revenue from Sydney International Airport. Residents of Rockdale Council area would still have imposition of the Airport but without receiving any rateable revenue, leading to Rate increases.

I trust that these thoughts will help Council in its fight for the rights of Rockdale citizens.

Yours faithfully,

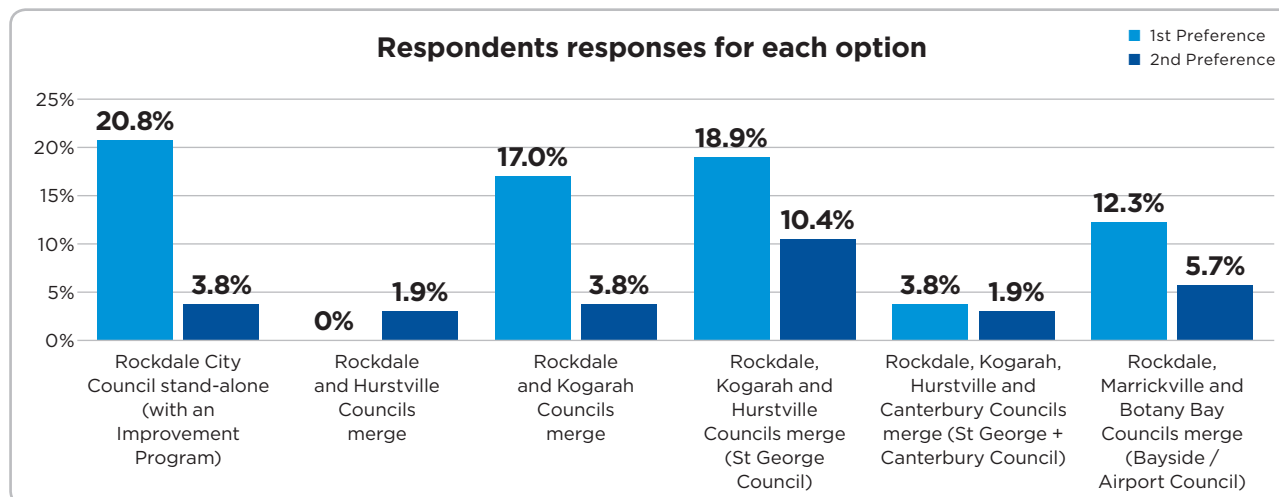


cc
Fifth Ward Councillors
Roz Bezic
Shane O'Brien (Mayor)
James MacDonald

APPENDIX H

FEEDBACK RECEIVED FROM 8 MAY TO 4 JUNE 2015

The following graph shows the preferences received following the Community Engagement closing date (4 June 2015).



OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONSIDERATIONS FOR EACH OPTION

Rockdale City Council Stand-alone (with an Improvement Program)

- Because I do not like that Rockdale, Sans Souci and Bexley have 'Unisex' toilets.
- Because I think it is best for Rockdale area and its people.
- Better service of operations as a stand-alone council.
- Boundary lines, services, debt, rates.
- Don't support any merger.
- Existing relationships with other councils and likely economies of scale.
- Keep airport within Rockdale City Council.
- Level of service remains unchanged.
- More benefits than merging with other areas (councils).
- Prefer Stand-alone council-merging with others may create future ghettos, we, don't want high rise! (i.e. different councils, different areas, different plans!).
- Residential and business rates remain steady - services and service level unchanged.
- Rockdale Council is a very strong one at the moment both economically and planners wise.
- Rockdale has served me well and has always been available to advise me on issues.
- Rockdale is a strong council and can manage as a stand-alone.
- Rockdale Stand-alone is ideal. But if we need to merge Kogarah has most common goals and financially most stable.
- Smaller is beautiful but if the new liberal Baird government insist on amalgamations we like the more cosmopolitan culture found closer to the city.
- We don't want other large debts from other councils.
- Well managed.

APPENDIX H

FEEDBACK RECEIVED FROM 8 MAY TO 4 JUNE 2015

- Why change when it works.
- Your council will look after you better as to an amalgamated one.

Rockdale and Kogarah Councils merge

- Adjoining areas. Kogarah has no debts.
- Because I think that Kogarah & Rockdale Councils can be very good for our requirements in both areas.
- Because Rockdale Council does not maintain our public amenities, parks like other councils.
- Benefit from synergies but smaller enough for local input.
- Debts and population per councillor.
- Kogarah is only a small suburb and it is ideal to amalgamate with Rockdale.
- Live in Kogarah postcode, pay Rockdale rates.
- Makes sense.
- One strong and efficient council - Kogarah and Rockdale are made for each other.
- Option 1 - similar characteristics, bayside councils, would maintain interaction still at a local level.
- Reasonably sized council plus Kogarah has great environmental policy.
- Residents concern - avoided highrise development.
- Rockdale & Kogarah makes sense and I like Marrickville Green & Community services.
- Rockdale and Kogarah is best.
- Similarity of people living in community.
- They are geographically close and could work well together.
- Too many local councils.
- We think either of these options would be viable.

Rockdale, Kogarah and Hurstville Councils merge (St George Councils)

- Best bet.
- Common 'St George' background and complimentary geography.
- Cost cutting, efficiency - sharing ideas.
- Council's merge saving cost, work more efficient.
- I think it's the best option.
- It makes sense to join the 3 local councils together to reduce costs.
- Keep it close together.
- Kogarah Council looks after residents more.
- Most practical to meet all requirements without drastic reduction of services or increased costs.
- Rockdale has too many councillors for its size.
- Share boundaries/sporting events held across multiple council fields would be under the one umbrella.

APPENDIX H

FEEDBACK RECEIVED FROM 8 MAY TO 4 JUNE 2015

- Similar population so similar needs.
- St George amalgamation is logical for our identity. Kogarah Council has always been effective and run with integrity, having lived in Kogarah council for 55 years
- St George identity.
- St George option appears a logical amalgamation for increased efficiency and effective local govt. To add Canterbury is a challenge for a 'bulldog' Mayor.
- Strong St George identity and common issues facing communities.
- This is the most natural and historic alliance.
- Well, they are in the St George area, keep it that way.

Rockdale, Kogarah, Hurstville and Canterbury Councils merge (St George + Canterbury Council)

- Economy of scale should reduce costs.
- Long term, larger councils have greater revenue and political influence.
- St George and Canterbury is a good combination.
- We all share border.

Rockdale, Marrickville and Botany Bay Councils merge (Bayside/Airport Council)

- Airport control and community voice, economic and cultural productivity and future stability.
- All Councils that are connected to the airport should merge and collect revenue that is owed to them by the Airport. One Council will have a stronger say in the airports operation.
- Because Botany and Rockdale sharing airport council.
- Best option ensuring Airport remains in Rockdale area.
- Council revenue.
- Like the airport being part of the council plus Rockdale is on the bay so it makes sense.
- Marrickville council is the benchmark Sydney council.
- Marrickville has a higher profile and the airport Council seems to know what they are.
- More business money for car parks, infrastructure, police, services, security, etc.
- Stronger voice and aligned with council (Marrickville) doing well in area of sustainability.
- The western part of Marrickville could absorb into part of Canterbury.
- To make airport 24/7 and better transport to airport.
- We face the same issues with the Bay & Rockdale is inefficient on its own.

APPENDIX H

FEEDBACK RECEIVED FROM 8 MAY TO 4 JUNE 2015

OPEN ENDED RESPONSES: CONCERNS EXPRESSED ABOUT AMALGAMATIONS

- Am sure the government will save money.
- Amalgamation of 1/4 million pop of above is regional not local, too big, too distanced from local community.
- Decreased efforts in my suburb but hopefully subsequent to The Coptic Church.
- Enough councillors, no more. Hold accountable.
- Going on results from previous amalgamation, you lose local identity.
- Having lived through Rockdale and Bexley amalgamation, I don't like them.
- I have concerns merging with any council other than Marrickville.
- I hope council doing our good service.
- Increase in rates, less representatives of councillors.
- Just that a lot of extra people small items can be overlooked too often.
- Lack of representation due to reduced number of councillors.
- Level of service for increased population size.
- Meeting standards/expectations over a large area.
- Might affect the service.
- Negative impact on services and needs for the area.
- No. (x 18)
- No concerns, get on with it.
- No, as long as providing best interest to community is an outcome.
- No, so long as council gets smaller.
- Not having easy access to councillors and chambers if too far away.
- Pay rate increase and councils not maintaining common public areas like parks and streets.
- Rates increasing, less services, less improvement in area.
- Rockdale Council already neglects its fringes, will it get worst?
- Sounds like we don't have much choice and Canterbury should not join as it makes no sense.
- That the resident's plans for Rockdale via council and concerns will be swallowed up by debts and plans for other areas.
- The larger the amalgamated councils anticipate less local input.
- There would not be the same knowledge of the large areas they cover or expertise.
- They won't look after the residents so well.
- Though the administration cost will be reduced, it will also reduce the quality of service.
- Transfer of debt.
- We don't want the area to become too large.
- Where control is to be - will other areas miss out.
- Would not meet State Government Fit for the Future requirements.
- Yes. (x 2)

APPENDIX H

FEEDBACK RECEIVED FROM 8 MAY TO 4 JUNE 2015

- Yes, as others can be influenced.
- Yes, Auckland NZ - Supercity for savings-some joke-this year 2015 rate increase proposed of 9.9%, where are the ratepayers savings????
- Yes, increased politics to hamper delivery of services and council productivity?
- Yes, it goes against the idea of 'local' in local government.
- Yes, rates being increased.
- Yes, taking on other council's problems/debts, too big to manage.
- Yes, that Rockdale & Hurstville will swamp Kogarah's better management.
- Yes, the service provide levy to pay etc.
- Yes, the service will get worst than what it is - keep all separate.
- Yes, too many 'chiefs' and too many opposing ideas, lots of problems!
- Yes, when things get too big/large there are always problems arising and people tend to disagree. Answers are found but not always the best ones.



www.rockdale.nsw.gov.au



131 450

Telephone Interpreter Services

بخدمة الترجمة الهاتفية

電話傳譯服務處

Τηλεφωνικές Υπηρεσίες Διερμηνέων

Servicio Telefónico de Intérpretes

Servizio telefonico interpreti

Служба за преведување по телефон