

23 JULY 2015

Dr Peter Boxhall AO
Chairman
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
Local Government Division
Review of Local Council Fit for the Future Proposals
PO Box K35
Haymarket Post Shop NSW 1240

Dear Dr Boxhall

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission to the *Review of Local Council Fit for the Future Proposals*.

I write in support of the City of Sydney Council's proposal that shows that the City will be 'fit for the future' without amalgamating with Woollahra, Waverley, Randwick and Botany Bay Councils, as recommended by the Independent Local Government Review Panel. We, along with 82% of residents, support this position. Local government amalgamations that are imposed on communities, despite clear community opposition, are in conflict with basic democratic principles.

This year we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Australian Design Centre and the beginning of a new era having recently opened our new gallery spaces, learning centre and offices in the William Street Creative Precinct. We play a vital role in championing making and design, exhibiting the work of thousands of designers in Sydney and around the country in our touring exhibitions.

The City of Sydney has been responsible for establishing our city as a vibrant international cultural destination. The Council's commitment to developing and implementing the first cultural policy and the investment it has made in culture, creativity and the arts, is exemplary. Good and responsible government seeks to make strategic investments that are long term.

Many of the achievements of the City of Sydney will be fully realised over the long term. We are proud to be a part of that investment. The long term strategic thinking of the City of Sydney has made it possible for us to realise our aims to bring our business into a street front space opening up access for our audiences and enlivening this creative part of the city by giving design and designers such a prominent presentation space. The property has enabled us to house alongside

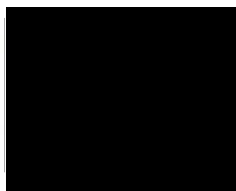
the galleries a magnificent learning centre to deliver our children's programs and an event space.

Amalgamation will dilute these investments by diverting resources to pointless restructuring and rebadging which in the short and long term will potentially undermine and destroy the creative fabric of the city.

I am originally from Toronto, Canada. In 1996 the Ontario Government decided to amalgamate Metropolitan Toronto. The government believed it was simplifying administration and cutting costs by removing duplication. The evidence does not support this view. Amalgamation in that country has made local government more complicated and has increased costs.

As in Toronto, there is no evidence to suggest that amalgamation in Sydney is necessary or will be beneficial. There is little support for the move by residents and other participants in the life of the City. It is for these reasons that we strongly oppose forced amalgamation of the City of Sydney with neighbouring councils.

Yours sincerely



Steven Pozel
Director