



# Coalition of Glebe Groups

18th July 2015

Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal  
Local Government Division  
Sydney  
NSW

**Subject: Review of Local Council Fit for the Future Proposals**

Dear Sir,

I am writing on behalf of COGG (Coalition of Glebe Groups) to protest about the proposed amalgamation of the City of Sydney with other suburban councils. COGG was formed in 2005 to represent community groups in Glebe/Forest Lodge. Its charter is to consult, identify priorities for Glebe as informed by the various strategic plans and work collaboratively with the City of Sydney and other authorities to bring about the implementation of these strategies. The member groups include: The Glebe society Inc; Glebe Chamber of Commerce Inc; Glebe Community Action Group and the Glebe Point Residents Group. COGG meets monthly together with Council officers for the benefit of residents in Glebe/Forest Lodge.

The City of Sydney has already proven that it is 'Fit for the Future'. The NSW Government initiated Local Government Review Panel. The report was tabled in 2015 and the Government then chose to ignore its findings and refer its amalgamation plan to IPART. City of Sydney Council spent many hours and time on making its submission, to find that it then had to justify its existence to IPART within a very short time frame. This change can only be perceived as a political tactic. Thus it caused great concern and cost and diverted Council from its core business.

The achievements of City of Sydney over past 11 years have been most adequately documented in its submission. COGG's members have appreciated the value of the work and time that City of Sydney has afforded both residents and businesses. COGG is proud to work with a Council that is strategic, financial, consultative and responsive. It is widely known in our community, how residents have benefited from consultation and the projects that the City has completed. If the City of Sydney was to be increased in size, the residents would lose that valuable connection and appropriate function.

It is apparent to everyone that the thrust changed from voluntary amalgamations to forced amalgamations. Surveys conducted within the LGA have adequately demonstrated that the status quo should remain for best practice and benefit to everyone. It is wherefore requested that the NSW Government allows City of Sydney to continue with its effective management. There is no evidence to suggest that '*bigger is better*'. COGG awaits your response.

Sincerely

Christina Anthony

Chair of COGG 2015