



Submission to IPART on Canterbury Council's "Fit for the Future"

by Margaret Fasan on behalf of the Hurlstone Park Association Inc

27 July 2015

This submission on Canterbury Council's "Fit for the Future" proposal is made on behalf of the Hurlstone Park Association (HPA). The HPA was registered under the *Incorporated Associations Act* on 7 August 2014. It currently has 120 members. Our membership is drawn from the suburb of Hurlstone Park in Canterbury LGA and Dulwich Hill in Marrickville LGA.

The HPA aims to maintain the unique character of Hurlstone Park, improve its amenities, foster its community and promote sustainable growth. Over the past year, the HPA has endeavoured to work with the local community and Canterbury Council to achieve these aims.

Revitalising Local Government" (Sansom report) recommended that Canterbury Council amalgamate with either Bankstown Council or Hurstville Council. However, Canterbury Council's "Fit for the Future" preferred position is to stand alone.

HPA's preference is for the suburb of Hurlstone Park to be amalgamated with an inner-west Council rather than

- a. remaining with Canterbury Council in its stand-alone option or,
- b. being amalgamated with a southern Sydney group of Councils as recommended in the Sansom report.

Hurlstone Park is located at the north eastern tip of the Canterbury LGA and immediately adjacent to Marrickville Council to the north and east. The southern boundary of the suburb is the Cooks River (see attached Map).

Economic and social inter-relationships

The Hurlstone Park community gravitates towards and identifies far more closely with the inner west of metropolitan Sydney than with southern or western Sydney. Like the adjacent suburbs of Marrickville and Dulwich Hill, it was originally a solidly working-class area, that has through migration and gentrification radically changed its demography. Today there are a large percentage of professionals and younger families living in Hurlstone Park. Many of the more recent arrivals have come from the inner west as they were attracted to the area by the larger lot sizes that are characteristic of the suburb.

Whilst Hurlstone Park has a small local centre adjacent to the train station, the majority of residents utilise the nearby shopping centres of Dulwich Hill, Marrickville and Ashfield for shopping and services. None of these centres are located within the Canterbury LGA and none of them are located to the south of the Cooks River. It is noted that linkages across

the Cooks River are limited in number and hence the river is a barrier to vehicular/pedestrian movement in a north south direction.

Cooks River boundary

Apart from forming a natural boundary to Hurlstone Park, the Cooks River also coincides with the southern boundary of the Federal seat of Grayndler. (see attached Map). The Grayndler electorate includes most of the inner-western suburbs of Sydney.

The Cooks River also forms the boundary of the Marrickville LGA. It would seem expedient to implement the Cooks River as a boundary to an amalgamated inner west Council the more closely reflects the boundary of the Grayndler electorate.

Leadership

The demographic changes that are occurring in Hurlstone Park have led to an increase in the number of residents wishing to participate in community governance. The HPA is taking a lead role in facilitating this community action.

It is considered that amalgamation with an inner west Council would enable more open discussion and information sharing than Canterbury Council has to date been able to provide. Unlike Canterbury Council, Marrickville and most of the other inner west Councils have highly evolved community engagement plans and procedures, which it is assumed, would be carried over into an amalgamated inner west Council. Forging partnerships in this way could unlock additional energy, skills and funds from the community.

Accessibility

The Sansom report recommends that Canterbury Council be amalgamated with either Hurstville or Bankstown Councils. This suggests that the Council's administrative function would be located at either Hurstville or Bankstown, neither of which are close to Hurlstone Park. It would take in excess of an hour for a resident of Hurlstone Park to reach Hurstville by public transport as there are no direct train or bus routes.

Conclusion

Marrickville Council has put forward its preferred "Fit for the Future" position to stand alone rather than amalgamate with other Councils. If IPART supports this position, the HPA requests that consideration be given to amalgamating Hurlstone Park into the Marrickville LGA. It is noted that *Map 4 Preferred Merger Options for Sydney Metropolitan Councils* on p107 of the Sansom report identifies the need for a review of the boundary between Marrickville and Canterbury Councils (ie Hurlstone Park)

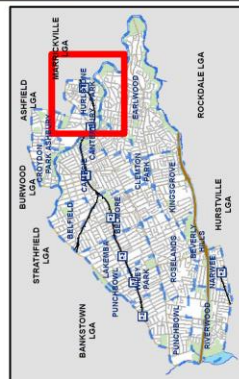
If Marrickville Council's proposal is not accepted and it is merged with other inner west Councils, Hurlstone Park should be included in this amalgamation.

Margaret Fasan
Vice President
Hurlstone Park Association

HURLSTONE PARK SUBURB (Part)

Legend

- Car park locations
- Train Station
- Suburb boundaries
- M5 Motorway
- Railway Line
- Property boundaries
- Schools
- Parks and Reserves
- Rivers and Creeks



Scale 1:8,000 @A3
0 95 190 380 Meters
Printed: 29 Jun 2012
Projection: GDA 1984
Zone 56

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Jim Montague
General Manager



