

From: Françoise Kempster

Sent: Wednesday, 15 July 2015 2:30 PM

To: Local Government Mailbox

Subject: NSW Government Hands off City of Sydney & don't forget that we residents have long memories

I believe the City of Sydney have **demonstrated in their submission that they are indeed “Fit for the Future”** and should not be amalgamated with our neighbouring councils.

An amalgamation at this time would **seriously and negatively impact on the City’s capacity** to deliver during a period of significant development and urban renewal that relies on our expertise and financial investment. **Here are four reasons why the City is “Fit for the Future”:**

1.1.1 1. WE HAVE SCALE AND CAPACITY

The City of Sydney is a leading council that delivers high quality services and infrastructure while keeping rates and charges low. It has exceptional demonstrated capacity and a proven ability to plan, fund and deliver world-class services and infrastructure that meet the economic, social, cultural and environmental needs of our city and its communities.

1.1.2 2. WE ARE SUSTAINABLE

The City of Sydney’s demonstrated effective governance, strong finances and skilled personnel are critical for securing Sydney’s continued transformation as a modern global city and to capitalise on unprecedented development investment potential over the next decade.

1.1.3 3. WE ARE IN A PERIOD OF UNPRECEDENTED INVESTMENT

The local government area is expected to experience unprecedented development investment over the next decade, subject to the City of Sydney’s continued efficient delivery of infrastructure and professional expert services, especially in planning and approvals.

1.1.4 4. AMALGAMATIONS ARE DISRUPTIVE WITHOUT DEMONSTRATED BENEFIT

The financial benefit of an amalgamation is marginal compared to the risks of a loss of business and development confidence due to an uncertain investment climate and disruption to city operations and critical infrastructure projects.

1.1.5 THIS SUBMISSION RECOMMENDS:

- The City of Sydney **has scale and capacity** to be Fit for the Future.
- **No major structural should change** be undertaken to the City’s boundaries at this time.
- Priority action is needed to **deliver important reforms** to the NSW local government legislative and regulatory framework for governance, financing and collaboration/coordination.
- To enable integrated strategic planning, local government areas excised and transferred to state agencies (Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority, Barangaroo Delivery Authority and UrbanGrowth NSW) should be **reintegrated into the City** local government area.

Yours Sincerely
Françoise Kempster