

From: Helen Malinowski [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 2 July 2015 2:19 PM
To: office@upton.minister.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Amalgamation of Councils

The Hon. Gabrielle Upton MP
52 Martin Place
SYDNEY 2000
2 July 2015

Dear Gabrielle,

Being our local member for Vacluse, a member of the Liberal Party and therefore advocating the State Government's proposed Local Government Reform Program, "Fit for the Future", I am asking you if the imminent Amalgamation of Councils will effect our Woollahra Council rates.

Does this mean there will be new rates to the tune of 2.2 times higher? - translated to mean a rise of 222%? (As stated in the Woollahra Council flyer posted to all home and property owners.)

Will land values be calculated on land area and will Woollahra's large land areas simply mean our "wallets will be opened" for say Randwick where the average areas of homes is far smaller? (See the Wentworth Courier, 3 June 2015)

It worries me deeply that should this plan be implemented, older, fixed income and pensioner owners currently just covering their yearly costs of maintenance on their homes and gardens, will not be able to pay the much higher rates. If the prospect that they could lose their homes were true, there would be much anxiety and unrest in the community.

However, it seems amalgamation is a given and it will be the details that matter: Therefore it seems seriously worthwhile to consider the idea that Woollahra Council be amalgamated with Sydney City Council and maybe Waverley. A more balanced plan would be for Randwick City Council to be amalgamated with Botany Bay City Council.

Please let me know if the matter of vastly higher rates for Woollahra Council home owners is really on the plan. If so, that you are addressing these concerns to the Government - on my behalf and those of the whole family.

Kind regards,

Helen Malinowski
[REDACTED]