

From: John Bulford [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 13 July 2015 4:17 PM
To: Local Government Mailbox
Subject: City Of Sydney - Council Merger proposals

I am writing to register my objection to the proposed merger of multiple councils in the City of Sydney region.

I don't believe that the proposal offers any compelling advantages and, in fact, is likely to lead to a reduction of effectiveness and a reduction in democracy.

I'm not against the merger of sub-scale council areas where the merger will deliver ratepayer benefits but I have seen no convincing proposals that a super merger, as proposed with the City of Sydney and the neighbouring council areas will do anything for rate payers.

There maybe some scope for the development of shared services where one council has particular skill or expertise but this doesn't require the merger of the councils - simply open tendering.

There might be some scope for the Sydney Regional area to conduct more integrated planning - but again this doesn't require a merger of councils. Even in London with an elected Lord Mayor the Councils remain separate from the elected London Assembly.

I am concerned that the proposal to merge the Sydney Councils is really targeted at political control - if this were the case it would be a very worrying development. The lack of any hard data to support the merger proposal by the Government suggests that this is a poorly thought through proposal that has objectives aside from the economic. IPART's role is to be independant and I expect, and rely, on this being the case.

Yours faithfully

John Bulford
[REDACTED]