

Author name: J. Chesterman

Date of submission: Friday, July 10, 2015

Submission:

I have worked extensively as a consultant to a great many local councils over the last fifty years. I have read the I-Part report and am not convinced by it.

Sydney is characterised by a great variety of distinctive natural and man-made environments and social groupings for which small local government units are ideal. Improving efficiency and cost effectiveness, if and when, required can be achieved by better governance at the local and state levels and by sharing resources - as happens now in some areas where common interests make this possible. It can certainly be encouraged by the state.

Sheer size will not achieve the desired result suggested by I-Part, but will have an homogenising effect on our environment and stifle the innovation which arises from one council learning from another. It will also divorce civil society from local management.

I am strongly against the proposed forced amalgamations.

David Chesterman AM LFRAIA FPIA