

Dr. Peter Boxall  
The Chairman  
Local Government Team  
IPART P.O. Box K35  
Haymarket Post Shop  
NSW 1240

Friday, 31 July 2015

Dear Dr. Boxall,

**Supportive Submission on  
Pittwater's Fit for the Future (FftF) Improvement Proposal**

I, as do 89% of my fellow Pittwater residents, support Pittwater's FftF proposal to stay as it is with its current boundaries.

**The best thing about Pittwater's proposal is the fact it is not just a Council proposal. The Pittwater community has worked with the Council every step of the way. This is how a democracy and a strong community should work. You can especially see this in Attachment 6 in Pittwater's proposal.**

However we need to do some reform and I see us going to great length to do this **BUT** changing our boundaries is not going to help this process.

Pittwater is working to improve:

- Engagement between residents, community groups, council and state government to ensure the local voice is heard, listened to and acted upon with its Placemaking [processes](#)
- Spending on projects, infrastructure, services, the environment, etc to better reflect and balance the needs and wants of the local people, businesses and planning
- Communicating local needs with the State Government via structures such as SHOROC, request for State Grants, etc

In fact the NSW Government's main focus on councils' scale and capacity has harmed the FftF process already.



It has greatly damaged the NSW's Liberal brand. FftF and IPART have become dirty words. Councils are against councils. There is in-house fighting on State and council levels, and the NSW Upper House is in the process of conducting an expensive inquiry. NOT a good look at all!

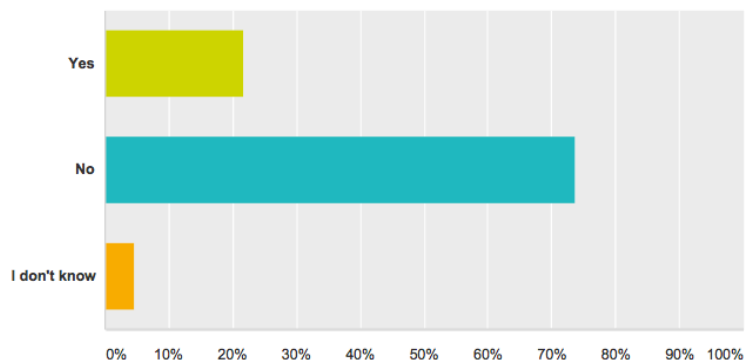
State Government needs to take a step back and start listening and acting on the wants and needs of the people. The people's voice is an asset.

So listen to what is being said in the [Upper House Inquiry in its survey results](#):

- 58% don't support the FftF program
- 58% think the FftF timeframe too short
- 59% think the FftF evaluation process invalid
- 79% don't support forced amalgamation
- 65% support local govt reform
- 75% think councils should have **more** say in regional issues
- 67% are satisfied or highly satisfied with their current council
- 73% think services will be compromised by amalgamation
- 75% think their council size and scale is appropriate
- 76% think their council financially sustainable
- 75% think amalgamation will not improve financial sustainability
- 72% do not support the amalgamation of their council

**Q8 Do you support the forced amalgamation of local councils, if IPART finds that they do not have sufficient scale and capacity?**

Answered: 615 Skipped: 180



Yours sincerely,

Janet Forrester  
Pittwater Resident



Copy to  
The Hon. Rob Stokes, MP  
Minister for Planning  
52 Martin Place  
SYDNEY NSW 2000