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Sent: Wednesday, 29 July 2015 11:38 AM
To: Local Government Mailbox; manly@parliament.nsw.gov.au; office@toole.minister.nsw.gov.au
Subject: Proposed Council Amalgamations

To whom it may concern

There is a Federal Government White Paper due out during the term of the current Abbott government, relating to the system of government we have in this country and what may be done to improve the system.

We are, as a nation, grossly overgoverned. Those responsible for stitching together federation over 100 years ago could not have envisaged the hideously expensive and inefficient system we have in place in the third millennium.

RMIT academics some years ago produced a sensible and efficient solution to the problem which resided in a single unicameral Federal government with the two current tiers of State and Local government merged into 80 administrative zones, each catering for approx. 1.25% of the nation's population.

Obviously this arrangement would have little appeal to those of the political class that has grown in this country, but it has a lot of appeal to the taxpayer stuck with funding current arrangements.

Before the current State government indulges in gung-ho council mergers in the name of efficiency, it had best await the Federal White Paper lest any council mergers undertaken in the near future need to be reconsidered as a result of recommendations of the White Paper.

Going back to the academic recommended administrative zone for 1.25% of the population, the recommended population of any given zone would come out at about 300,000 residents.

The proposed merger of the council areas of City of Sydney, Waverley, Woollahra, Randwick and Botany would give a so-called "local" government with a population grossly in excess of that number - in fact with a population greater than the population of Tasmania, the ACT, the Northern Territory and far too great for convenient administration.

The City of Sydney current local council area is of great importance to NSW and the nation. Sydney CBD and closely surrounding suburbs provide the focus of overseas tourist traffic into this country. It is also the most important and concentrated commercial centre we have. Administration of this unique council area gives rise to specific requirements which are not common to suburban councils. The City of Sydney council area is seen as the jewel in the crown of local government in this city and State.

Both sides of the party political divide have, in government, done what they could to gain party political control of this council. But the residents and ratepayers continue to rebuff party political ploys.

Merger of Botany, Randwick, Waverley and Woollahra councils would provide a very substantial council area which would, of itself, provide sufficient difficulty of administration.

Please leave the City of Sydney council arrangements as they are. It ain't broke. We do not need politicians to fix it.

John Hinde

