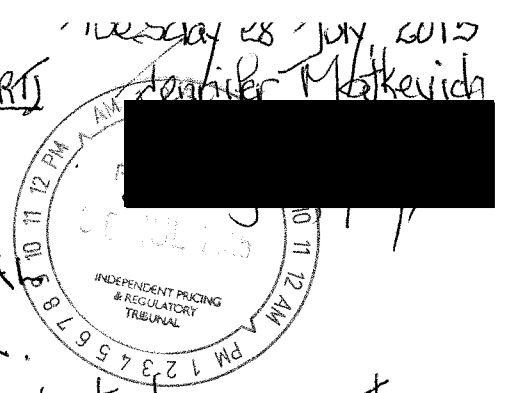


Submission to "Fit for the future proposal
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART)
P.O. Box K35, Haymarket Post Shop, NSW 1240
Dear Sir/Madam,



KEEP LEIGHHARDT COUNCIL STANDALONE i.e. LOCAL
The 2 words LOCAL GOVERNMENT SAY IT ALL.
Leichhardt Council should remain LOCAL so as to truly represent
the needs and interests of our LOCAL community.
We are financially sustainable (3rd best of the 41 in the
Sydney Metropolitan Area) AND
representing a population of 58,000, have enough diversity of
interest already.

I want to know that my rates are being used for local issues
events, infrastructure e.g. local roads, footpaths, libraries, open
space, and that I have a say to a Council who should
know what I am talking about. e.g.

Has a historical as well as a future perspective.
That Leichhardt is uniquely vulnerable to overdevelopment and
traffic grid lock.

That the car can be a problem for the future, not a solution.

ALSO
Keeping the existing LOCAL character of Leichhardt LGA as a
buffer zone and CONTRAST to the high rise CBD across the
ANZAC bridge is going to bring in more tourist and
visitor dollars to maintain sustainability, as will
LOCAL initiatives of Leichhardt Council. e.g. their
RENEW programs to revitalise.

Norton St and Parramatta Rd in Leichhardt
Darling St in Rozelle and Balmain.

I want common SENSE decisions rather than those which
are IDEOLOGICALLY DRIVEN, e.g. that bigger is always better.
Blacktown Council with a population of 325,000 comes
35th out of 41, in terms of financial sustainability.

KEEP LEIGHHARDT COUNCIL STANDALONE AND LOCAL.

Could you please let me know you have received my Submission
in writing, by post at the above address. Thank you.
Yours sincerely,



1 SHH article Attachment.

Jennifer Matkevich (Ms) Resident of Leichhardt LGA since 1966.

32 Local Government

Polling contradicts survey on council mergers

Harvey Grennan

It's the battle of the polls. Local government has reacted sharply to the University of Technology, Sydney survey published last week that indicated city people don't care too much about council amalgamations.

Local Government NSW has released its own survey which it says is robust and covers a larger sample. The director of the Centre for Local Government at UTS, Roberta Ryan, had said that some individual council polling was "not evidence... a furphy".

The poll for LGNSW was conducted across 7416 respondents in 14 local government areas - almost half the Sydney councils recommended for amalgamation - by Micromex Research. It found that: 85 per cent of respondents were



Local Government NSW president Keith Rhoades. Photo: Albey Bond

very supportive, supportive or somewhat supportive of the stand-alone option for their council, 61 per cent identified the no-change/stand-alone option as their

mainly a "stand-alone with joint regional services" option or a much smaller amalgamation.

LGNSW president Keith Rhoades said the polling clearly demonstrated that people don't want to be forced into mega-councils with populations the size of Tasmania.

"The government has either misunderstood public opinion, been misled by vested interest groups such as the development lobby, or deliberately chosen to raise the spectre of forced amalgamations on strictly ideological grounds."

The mayor of Mosman, Peter Abelson, a noted economist, said the national UTS study had only a small sample of Sydney residents.

"Social factors were almost entirely ignored by the Independent Local Government Review Panel,

no member of which had held elected office, and few Office of Local Government officials have," he said. "The idea that the panel recommended fewer councils in the

"There is no evidence that large councils produce economic savings."

Peter Abelson

Sydney metropolitan area in order to improve the financial viability of local government is pure fiction. There is no evidence that large councils produce economic savings. The key criterion for fitness should be a council's ability to provide desired local public services."