

30 July 2015
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

To The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal

I wish to submit the attached petition on behalf of the residents of Belfield who will be adversely affected by the boundary adjustment proposed by Bankstown Council in their Improvement Proposal . We are strongly opposed to the proposal.

The residents of Belfield have had almost no opportunity to respond to this proposal. Prior to a flyer being distributed by Strathfield Council between 24-27 July 2015 attempting to inform residents of the Bankstown Council proposal the only way residents would be aware of this would be to view the Bankstown proposal on the IPART website. As we have nothing to do with, and no interest in Bankstown, no Belfield resident should be expected to review the Bankstown proposal. The only proposal we would expect to need to review would be that of Strathfield Council, to which we belong.


Although Strathfield Council organised for information flyers to be distributed to all households very few residents were aware of receiving these. Whether this was because houses were missed, flyers fell out of letter boxes, or were unnoticed in the mass of junk mail that is deposited into letter boxes is irrelevant , what matters is the residents to be affected were not adequately informed, their views were not considered and they were not given reasonable opportunity or time to respond. At most we were given one week. I do not blame Strathfield Council for this as I believe they did the best they could to notify residents once they became aware of the Bankstown proposal; organising a letter box drop and placing notification in prime position on their website on 24th July. However, it is unreasonable to expect residents to check the Council website daily.

As I myself did not find out about this proposal until Monday 27th July when talking with a neighbour who had received and seen the information flyer, I was concerned that many other residents would be in the same situation. Additionally, I was concerned that many of the residents, being elderly would have no means of online submission. As a result I therefore set out to attempt to inform as many residents of Belfield as possible and have them voice their opposition via a petition. Unfortunately time was limited. Having only becoming aware of the proposal Monday evening 27th July I could not begin petitioning until Tuesday evening on return from work. With such limited time, 6pm – 8.30pm over three evenings, I could only reach 5 streets and only those residents who were home between those very limited hours. Of all the households I visited none were in favour of the proposed

change, only 10 households were even aware of the proposal, and many were unable to lodge an online response.

I trust that IPART will consider these circumstances and will accept this petition as a submission from all the undersigned residents and understand why only a limited number of residents have signed. I plan to try to petition more of the suburb in coming days. I am aware the closing date for submissions is 31st July 2015, but ask that in light of the above outlined lack of consultation and time IPART accept and consider a further and more complete submission of this petition after the closing date.

Yours sincerely



Louise Symonds

SUBMISSION TO IPART IN RESPONSE TO BANKSTOWN COUNCIL'S PROPOSED BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT AFFECTING STRATHFIELD COUNCIL RESIDENTS

To The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal

We the undersigned residents of Belfield request that Strathfield Council submit the following signed petition to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART), on our behalf, objecting to Bankstown Council's proposed boundary change to takeover areas of the Strathfield local government area south of the Cooks River. The area Bankstown Council has proposed to take over includes the Strathfield half of Belfield, in which we are residents and property owners.

We are absolutely opposed to this takeover. Our reasons include the following:

- Lack of consultation and consideration of the views of affected residents and businesses by Bankstown Council
- We are satisfied with Strathfield Council's management of the area and object to having our property and services transferred to Bankstown Council
- We identify with and are part of the Strathfield community, not the Bankstown area.
- We are concerned this takeover will result in my area becoming part of a large council and my access to councillor representation and my voice in local issues will be reduced
- We are concerned this takeover will result in increased Council rates because land values of properties in the Strathfield Council area are considerably higher than Bankstown Council. This may also affect property values
- We are concerned this takeover would result in a loss or decline in services and the management of the area's assets and infrastructure
- We note that Bankstown Council has revenue shortfalls and are proposing significant rate increases to pay for its own revenue shortfalls, debts and asset backlogs
- We are concerned for the loss of community facilities, parks and open spaces and declines in standards or service and infrastructure management if taken over by Bankstown Council
- We are concerned this takeover would forcefully remove us from an area of high socio-economic advantage to one with high socio-economic disadvantage, as indicated by the SEIFA Index.
- We are concerned as property owners that the boundary change will have a significant adverse effect on the values of our properties.
- We are concerned that claims made by Bankstown Council in an attempt to justify their proposed takeover are false:
 - We DO NOT want to live in Bankstown Council
 - We DO NOT send our children to schools in Bankstown.
 - We DO NOT use Bankstown Council services.
 - There are no similarities between our community and that of Bankstown. We are part of the Strathfield community, with which we are demographically similar.

113 Signatures

NAME	ADDRESS	CONTACT NUMBER/EMAIL	COMMENT	SIGNATURE

Belfield Community submission to IPART objecting to the transfer of the area of Strathfield Council, south of the Cook's River, being transferred to Bankstown Council