

From: Margot Pearson
Sent: Saturday, 18 July 2015 2:09 PM
To: Local Government Mailbox
Subject: Fit for the Future Proposals: City of Sydney

Dear IPART

I wish to urge IPART to support the City of Sydney remaining in its current form and size. A 'mega-council' for the City to include Botany Bay, Randwick, Sydney, Waverley and Woollahra would not be an improvement for residents such as myself, nor I think for the many small businesses in my neighbourhood and businesses in the CBD.

I lived in Randwick for some years - 1975 - 1986, moving into Surry Hills in 1987, and after some years in Canberra for work purposes returning to my Surry Hills dwelling in 2001. So I have experienced the merger of South Sydney with the City of Sydney and am very aware of the great improvement in amenity and services under the leadership of the current Lord Mayor. In a neighbourhood that is zoned mixed business, there are small well kept parks and access to shops and restaurants and cafes. The City has pursued a path to future proof the city with cycle paths, street trees, good street lighting and parks such as Prince Alfred that are environmentally sound. Design excellence is apparent in the many buildings developed by the city and those negotiated with private developers. The City also supports a range of events and attractions that are good for business and tourism.

From my experience I suggest the nature of suburban neighbourhoods is very different from the urban neighbourhoods comprising the current City of Sydney. Surry Hills where I live is one of the areas identified as an attractor to many players in the knowledge economy that is fostered by connectivity both virtual, but also importantly face-to-face, as are Redfern and Pyrmont. In my street there are residential dwellings (terrace houses and apartments), converted warehouses and offices. Together this mix of residential and small businesses with many restaurants near by in adjoining streets gives it the energy and interest that attracts a range of folk: young people, families with children, retirees. Other folk come to work in the numerous small businesses, and visitors come to the area for recreation and shopping.

The City in its strategic planning developed the concept of a city of villages. It is this sensitivity to local needs and interests that is a hall mark of how the City interacts with the different urban neighbourhoods, while running an efficient operation for all the City as a whole. Similarly it needs to be acknowledged that those councils recommended for amalgamation also have their own distinctive identities.

I am very unhappy with the idea that a mega council might be installed. There is no demonstrable benefit to come from this. The City of Sydney is an attractive place to live and do business, and the council efficient and free of corruption. There have been no arguments as yet to support the creation of a larger entity that would justify such a change.

Margot Pearson
Surry Hills