

Author name: M. Smith

Date of submission: 31 July 2015

Submission: I oppose the forced council amalgamations because it is important to keep the "Local" in "Local Government". The Hornsby Local Government Area already covers a large geographic area, covering urban, rural and river communities within its boundaries. It is the "Bushland Shire".

The NSW Government's pro-amalgamation proposal would remove all what makes Hornsby Shire special, for bureaucratic gain and not really for the public interest.

I am concerned about the lack of openness and transparency during this process from the State Government and Local Council. I believe that us Hornsby Shire residents haven't really received much information from Hornsby Council, compared to the other councils like neighbouring Ku-Ring-Gai and Ryde Councils, about what amalgamation really means for the local community.

Most significantly, I oppose forced amalgamation because I am concerned about losing local representation, control over and connection with local community services and facilities. Bigger isn't always better - Keep Hornsby local and independent.