

**From:** Mark Westman [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thursday, 30 July 2015 5:07 PM

**To:** Local Government Mailbox; manly@parliament.nsw.gov.au; office@toole.minister.nsw.gov.au

**Subject:** 'Fit For the Future' - letter of support for CoS

To Whom It May Concern,

Pets In The Park supports the City of Sydney and believes the City is 'Fit for the Future' without the need for amalgamation with other councils as recommended by the Independent Local Government Review Panel.

Pets in the Park (PITP) is an Australian charity that supports, build relationships with and improves the wellbeing of homeless people in society living with animal companions. PITP operates within the City of Sydney and gratefully acknowledges support from the City of Sydney through the Community Grants Matching Program. As an organisation we work closely with the City of Sydney, their Homeless persons unit and the Companion Animal Liason Officers. Through this we have seen the City demonstrate that they are indeed "Fit for the Future' and should not be amalgamated with neighbouring councils.

Amalgamations are disruptive and without demonstrated benefit. All our work is conducted within the existing boundaries and this might not be possible in a mega council or local government area with a much higher population.

In conclusion we support the City of Sydney and know they are indeed "Fit for the Future". The City delivers high quality services and infrastructure. The City is sustainable with a strong vision for the future as well as being in a strong financial position with long term plans to protect this position. Residents overwhelmingly do not want amalgamations, nor do businesses and charity organisations such as ours. The City's decision to retain existing boundaries is the right decision to ensure Sydney continues to prosper as a sustainable, liveable city which encourages and supports organisations like ours.

Regards

Dr. Mark Westman

PITP Founder and Director

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