

IPART SUBMISSION ON CANADA BAY/AUBURN/ BURWOOD MERGER

As a Canada Bay City Council resident and ratepayer I find the combined Council submission to IPART totally unacceptable and am opposed to it.

Canada Bay council's part in this proposal totally goes against a unanimous vote by Canada Bay City Council to stand alone. It also ignores a phone survey commissioned by council that showed 1% approval for a merger with Auburn and 72% approval for remaining alone. In this regard the submission ignores the wishes of the ratepayers and elected representatives.

The proponents of the combined Council submission appear to disregard the differences in the demographics and culture of Canada Bay and Auburn especially.

Of particular concern to me would be the pressures on a combined Council, with its greater revenues, particularly those of from the higher density and largely more affluent suburbs of the Canada Bay area, to adopt a "Robin Hood" approach to resource and development allocation. This is not a "beggar thy neighbour" submission, but reflects a consideration of the past, present and likely future commitment of the residents of the Canada Bay area to preserve the local environment for not only their enjoyment, but for all of the many visitors to the Canada Bay City Council area.

This river council area is a truly unique piece of Sydney.

This combined Council submission is, in my view, the worst possible of all the various combinations of council mergers involving Canada Bay, that have been put forward.

My preference is definite – retain the status quo. Keep the Canada Bay City Council independent, and merge Burwood and Auburn councils, a clearly more suitable merger from all perspectives.

Regards

NAME: Richard Buckley

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