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Date of submission: Friday, July 31, 2015

Submission: We strongly support Pittwater Council's rejection of any merger with neighbouring Councils, or any change in the existing Pittwater Council boundaries.

The same circumstances that justified Pittwater's succession from Warringah some 23 years ago still apply today. We have attended many meeting on the subject to listen to all views, and nothing has convinced us that any proposed merger offers any real benefit to Pittwater and its residents. To the contrary, we can only see a number downsides in messing with what is demonstrably one of the best run Council's in our State.

The whole manner in which the suggested amalgamation reform has been handled by the State Government is disgraceful in our view. We of course want our Councils to be "Fit for the Future", and we believe Pittwater is. When Pittwater demonstrated it was "Fit for the Future", under the Government original criteria, the introduction of new criteria requiring a minimum level of scale and capacity was unbelievable, as it potentially precluded the consideration of all the things that make smaller Councils more efficient and smarter that larger Councils in carrying out their responsibilities for the people they represent.

There is ample evidence to support the viability of smaller Councils, and plenty of evidence to demonstrate that bigger is not necessarily better.

Pittwater is part of a very successful ROC, namely SHOROC, and it is also disgraceful what Warringah have done as a SHOROC member, in their bid to demonstrate why a merge of 3 Councils on the Northern Beaches was the best option. Interesting to see that even a lot of Warringah residents don't think that a combined Council is the best option either!

Local government is exactly that – local. We strongly object to the dilution of our local representation through the amalgamation of our Council with others. Without going over all of the reasons already highlighted in Pittwater Council's submission, we request in the strongest terms that Pittwater Council be allowed to continue to carry on the great work it has done since it's formation in 1992, without further interference and/or any boundary changes.

Robert Hack