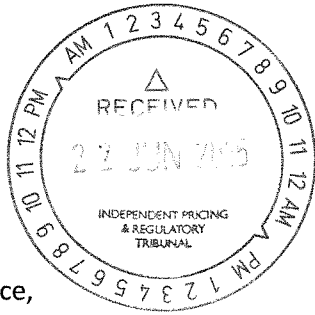


20/7/2015



IPART

State Government Office,

1 Market Street,

Sydney. 2000.

I would like to register my opposition to the NSW Government's strategy to amalgamate councils. I am particularly concerned about any amalgamation of the Waverley Council with other Local Government Areas.

Furthermore it is my understanding that of the responses to surveys sent out to all residents and businesses by councils to their ratepayers within the state **showed a resounding lack of support for the proposal of amalgamations.**

The NSW State Government was asked to state its position on the amalgamation of councils prior to the Election. It did not do so, nor did it raise this as an election commitment. In this regard, it cannot claim that it has a mandate to progress with amalgamations. Given this the NSW Government should hold a referendum to ensure that everyone in NSW is aware of this strategy and has been given the right to vote on the outcome.

IPART says it will assess Council's proposals independently based on the Government's criteria and ensure a consistent, fair and impartial assessment. It is not wholly clear what this criteria is, however, for this process to be truly independent, consistent, and transparent, then it is incumbent on IPART to disclose the criteria and its findings publicly.

Yours faithfully

Robert Steel