



The Secretary  
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal  
Local Government Division  
Review of Local Council Fit for the Future Proposals  
PO Box K35  
Haymarket Post Shop, NSW, 1240

18 July 2015

Dear Sir or Madam

### **PROPOSED AMALGAMATIONS WITH THE CITY OF SYDNEY**

The Glebe Society experienced amalgamation in 2003 when the City of Sydney was expanded by incorporating South Sydney and Glebe, formerly part of Leichhardt LGA.

The process of amalgamation was protracted and disruptive. For example, it took nine years for the complex issues involved in the various Town Plans to be resolved. These are well established inner urban areas with long traditions, and dense, fine grained patterns of land use.

It took a number of years for issues such as public consultation, social services, capital works projects and future developments to be sorted out, as is to be expected in such a large and varied urban area.

This process is now largely complete, and the City has for some years been operating effectively and has not only addressed the problems and needs of these diverse areas but has also become a leader in sustainability and energy conservation.

The impact of a further expansion of the area of the City by incorporating other LGAs would be at least as disruptive as the amalgamations in 2003, and from the point of view of residents of the current area of the LGA there are no perceptible benefits.

The indications are that the City meets all the criteria for future fitness, and is among the strongest LGAs financially and administratively. As far as we are aware, none of the proposed candidates for amalgamation with the City is interested, and neither is any significant group within the City itself.

The various parts and interests of the City are well represented, and any diminution or dilution of these representations would be felt as a serious disadvantage and backward step.



The Glebe Society demands that any proposal for further amalgamations of the City with surrounding LGAs be abandoned forthwith.

Yours faithfully



Ted McKeown  
President