

Ian Tanner

member Chatswood West Ward Progress Assn
Keep Willoughby City Council Local subIPART 220515

Chairman

Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal

I have received a brochure "Fit for the Future" from my Council.

Submission as an objection to criteria deemed to judge council amalgamation

Unfortunate Methodology

1. Scale and strategic capacity should not be the threshold criteria. There is no evidence that a large council is more effective, has better rates nor provides better services than a small council. Small can be appropriate. Mergers in rural Queensland debilitated towns like Tambo and Springsure. The Clarence Valley NSW merger was a significant disappointment. Residents in McLean feel disenfranchised by Grafton.

2. Scale and strategic capacity should not be linked. The two criteria should be assessed separately.

3. Minimum Population: There should be no number target as Ku-ring-gai Council found out from unworthy Planning Ministers.

4. Scale: There should be no target number of Council for metropolitan or regional areas.

5. Strategic Capacity should have benchmarks to measure the ten elements.

6. Strategic Capacity is to be rated by pro-development government blessed top down behaviour. Scale and strategic capacity measured by enabling the State Government's planned development should be removed. Residents need an opportunity to voice their opinion and be given a fair hearing.

7. Joint Organisations (ROC) should be returned as an option for all councils and time allowed to develop their business cases.

8. All submissions to IPART should be made public as soon as possible.

9. An extension of time for more respondents and give IPART time to consider all respondents replies should be appropriate.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission.

P.S. Radical change as evidenced in New Zealand is needed but unlikely to be adopted. Australia is over governed. Abolish State Governments and give more power to Local Government is my preferred way forward.

