

The Chairman
IPART
P.O. Box K35
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NSW 1240

Dear Dr Boxall,

IPART's main focus on "scale and capacity" has caused millions of tax and rates payers' dollars to be spent on issues which are destructive and totally counter to your claimed aim to make Sydney metropolitan councils "fit for the future".

Councils are against councils, Councillors against Councillors, residents are against residents. All for what? ***There is no proven evidence that larger councils are better.*** If there was IPART would have produced some. Yet there is lots of evidence which prove the smaller Sydney councils are stronger, more independent and are better able to focus on local issues. Here is just [some](#).

If IPART's aim was to have millions spent on this crippling process; its aim to divide and conquer - then I'm appalled. If it is not, IPART will need to switch its main focus on to issues which will really make our councils fitter and stop this damaging talk of amalgamations.

Issues such as how do councils:

1. Improve customer services,
2. Use better methods of spending rate payer's money - looking at best practices elsewhere in Sydney, in other States and around the world,
3. Encourage a better lifestyle for residents - again looking at best practices,
4. Protect their natural beauty and heritage,
5. But at the same time provide diversity in housing and amenities,
6. Provide better transport, a diversity of transport which allows people who are car-less (such as the young) to be able to easily get around,
7. Provide better waste management,
8. Encourage small businesses and start-ups,
9. Encourage not just physical, but mental and cultural activity amongst residents,
10. Encourage the community and community organisations to become more involved in their neighbourhoods.

One suggestion it that State Government sets up a centre where councils can submit good practices which have worked for them. These can be then used as a basis for best practices around the State - maybe even around Australia and the world.

In conclusion local government is all about the local. Making local councils focus on becoming bigger is unhelpful, expensive and will not see any positive results. I would like IPART in its "fit for the future" process to make our councils focus on issues far more constructive!

Yours faithfully,

Janet Forrester

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Copy to

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