

Author name: S. Faire

Date of submission: Sunday, May 24, 2015

Submission: [REDACTED]

24th May 2015

To : IPART

I believe that this is a very important matter and that local councils need to stay local – otherwise why do we need them??

And that the methodology to call for submissions needs to be reviewed and changed for the following reasons

- a. Scale and Strategic Capacity criteria should not be threshold criteria. There is no evidence that a large council is more effective, has lower rates, nor that it provides better services than a small council. In fact there is evidence that small councils are amongst the best in NSW and across Australia. Scale and Strategic capacity should not be threshold criteria.
- b. Scale and Strategic Capacity should not be linked. There is no evidence to link the scale of a council with its strategic capacity therefore: The two criteria should be assessed separately.
- c. Scale – Minimum population: There is no evidence that bigger is better in fact the evidence is the opposite – that smaller is better for councils. There should be no number and no minimum population size.
- d. Setting a target number of councils in metropolitan/regional areas. IPART itself has clearly acknowledged that there is currently no evidence whatsoever for such a target. There should be no target number of council for metropolitan/regional areas.
- e. Strategic Capacity – is proposed to be measured by the degree with which a local council co-operates with the State Government in rolling out its “planned development”. This prejudices local councils which are standing up for the rights of their residents as they can be seen to be impeding the State Government’s planned development. Scale and Strategic Capacity measured by a Council's support for the State Government’s planned development should be removed.
- f. Joint Organisations were originally recommended by IPART, then ruled out by the Government in metropolitan Sydney. Regional Organisations of Councils (ROCS) are doing a great job in enabling significant savings for councils and should be able to be built on as a further business case model. Joint Organisations should be retained as an option for all councils, with time allowed to develop business cases.
- g. All submissions to IPART should be made public as soon as possible.
- h. The timeline goes against good process and needs to be extended. IPART submissions close on 25 May and the final methodology and criteria will be published 1 June. This does not give IPART enough time to fully consider all submissions, assess and respond to them, and then develop the final document.

Yours sincerely

Shoshana Faire

24th May 2015

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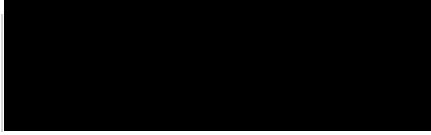
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