

Author name: S. Mayerhofer

Date of submission: Saturday, May 23, 2015

Submission: [REDACTED]

To the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal

Re Methodology in regard of Local Councils on being deemed Fit, Unfit or Deemed Unfit for amalgamation

I am totally opposed to the forced amalgamation of Local Councils of NSW without a referendum.

In regard to the Methodology, Scale and Strategic should not have a threshold criteria. Where is the evidence that a large council is more effective than small one?

There is no evidence to link the scale of a council with its strategic capacity, therefore the two criteria should be assessed separately.

Scale of Minimum Population. Bigger is not better, in fact the smaller the council the better it serves its population. There should be no minimum population size.

Why set a target of number of councils for the metropolitan area? Why set a target??

All elements (10) to measure strategic capacity should have benchmarks.

Local councils should stand up for the rights of their residents. This may at times impede the State Government's plans for development. This is the right of local residents to use the local council to oppose plans detrimental to the local area.

Regional Organisations of Councils (ROCS) are working well and should be returned as an option for all councils. They should be given time to develop business cases.

Please make all submissions to IPART public as soon as possible.

Extend the timeline for submissions and further consideration of the content of the submissions.

Please use evidence based theories and NOT unsubstantiated criteria. I have worked for years in the health industry and I know how important Evidence based Criteria are. I rely on the State Government and its instrumentalities to examine all evidence before formulating Criteria.

Yours sincerely

Susan Mayerhofer.

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