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25 May 2015

Dear sir/madam

**Re Submission to IPART—The draft Methodology for Assessment of Council Fit for the Future Proposals**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Methodology for Assessment of Council Fit for the Future Proposals.

While I agree in principle with the amalgamations of councils. My concern with the amalgamations is the loss of community representation that larger councils entail. With this in mind I am disappointed with the omission of the Joint Organisation ( JO) option in consideration.

My understanding was that Councils are required to use the original recommendations from the Independent Local Government Review Panel as a starting point for all proposals. The Panel's report recommended a JO option for the six inner west councils in lieu of a merger. This option is no longer available to these Councils.

Strengthened JOs are a sound alternative that achieve the principles of mergers while retaining adequate representation and local identity while avoiding expensive amalgamation costs. This is evidenced by the Morrison and Low Report Inner West Council's Shared Modelling (February 2015).

Therefore I would like to see the Joint Organisation option reinstated as an option for Burwood and the 5 other inner west councils as per ILGRP's recommendation.

Yours faithfully

Tim Entwisle