

I thank the Delegate for providing me with this opportunity to speak on behalf of La Perouse Precinct and the broader community in Randwick Local Government Area.

1. INTRODUCTION

It is the considered view of my precinct that the Government's proposal before the Delegate, to merge Randwick, Waverley and Woollahra councils, be rejected in on the grounds that: a) it lacks **legitimacy**; b) it lacks **credibility**; and c) it does not have **community** support.

Randwick Council is not only the largest of the three councils that are a subject of the merger proposal but is also is larger than the other two other councils combined, in population, area and asset base.

I put it to the Delegate that in the circumstance, the view of residents of Randwick carries significant weight, notwithstanding the fact that residents in the other council areas have similarly expressed their opposition to the merger proposal.

2. LEGITIMACY

I question the **legitimacy** of the proposal.

Fact.1: Randwick Council resolved **unanimously** that it is **unambiguously opposed** to amalgamation.

Fact.2: All fifteen Randwick Councillors **affirmed their opposition** to any form amalgamation.

Fact.3: Randwick Council resolved to **consult** with the local **community** by way of a **plebiscite**.

This begs the question as to how then this merger proposal come about that is before the Delegate?

I put it to the Delegate that a simple majority of eight Randwick Councillors turned their backs on their other colleagues, reneged on unanimous resolutions of Council, reneged on affirmations they made to their residents, ignored the plight of their community, succumbed to pressure from the Government and joined forces with Waverley to consume Woollahra.

3. CREDIBILITY

I question the **credibility** of the proposal.

I submit that the fundamentally flawed process by which Randwick Council conducted and analysed its community survey is an illuminating example.

Fact.4: Only 30 per cent of the survey respondents support amalgamation. The remaining 70 per cent either don't support or are unsure.

Fact.5: Less than 10 per cent of the survey respondents support the merger proposal. The remaining, more than 90 per cent, either don't support or are unsure.

These facts are contained in my submission¹ to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government in New South Wales. They are based on my analysis of the raw data files provided by Randwick Council.

time limit expired

This council has chosen not dispute my analysis or to contest any of the assertions as to facts contained therein.

I submitted to the parliamentary inquiry that proposed merger not to be considered without a referendum of residents and ratepayers in the affected areas.

¹ Inquiry into Local Government in New South Wales Submission No 169 dated 12/07/2015.

4. COMMUNITY

Randwick Council claimed that its plan for a public plebiscite hit a roadblock because the NSW Electoral Commission refused to release the electoral roll. What it did not disclose (that which I have in writing from the Electoral Office) is that it was offered a process by which it could conduct the plebiscite, and that it declined.

There has never been a vote in my precinct, or in any of the other precincts in Randwick that I have attended, where the outcome has been anything other than unanimous rejection of merger of any kind.

I put it to the Delegate that if for any reason the Delegate is not already satisfied that the merger should not go ahead, that a plebiscite be conducted to establish the will of the community on the matter.

I thank you.

Jayasooriah
Chairperson
La Perouse Precinct
4th February 2016