

30 July 2015

I am for the amalgamation of the councils and think that Hunters Hill Council and Ryde Councils (as a minimum) need to be merged.

As a resident that lives on a boundary between both councils (Pittwater Road-Ryde Council side), I am exposed to continual examples of inefficiency and lack of harmony between these two councils.

Examples include:

- Duplication of service: Rubbish collection takes place on different days on the same road- Hunters Hill on a Thursday and Ryde on a Tuesday.
- Council Clean-ups still take place in Hunters Hill on scheduled dates, Ryde is now by appointment.
- Hunters Hill Council has installed parking meters in some local popular parks (e.g. Clarkes Point and Buffalo Creek). In the Buffalo creek example, the installation of parking meters has now meant that many patrons of this park will park their cars across the road (in the Ryde Council supplied Field of Mars reserve car park) as it has no fees, and then walk across Pittwater road to access the park. This is dangerous as there is no dedicated crossing facilities, and it also reduces the ability for people to park and use the Field of Mars facilities.
- It is important to note that Hunters Hill ratepayers are able to use these facilities (Clarkes Point and Buffalo Creek) free of charge, however I cannot; despite the fact that it is only on the opposite side of the road I live on - I am closer to this park than 90% of Hunters Hill ratepayers.
- Hunters Hill Council is persisting with attempts to radically change my local shopping Village (Gladesville Shopping Village) by encouraging / accepting proposals for several residential towers that reach up to 26 stories (87 metres) in height. This is in an area that currently has no buildings taller than two stories. Despite this development sitting within 200 metres of my residence; I find that I and many other concerned local residents, are constantly ignored by Hunters Hill council with our concerns falling on deaf ears. The proposals for development have become increasingly out of touch with the local residents' concerns around traffic management, height restrictions, parking arrangements, deep soil capabilities and rainwater runoff.

I feel that both Ryde Council and Hunters Hill Council do not work well together. I feel that as independent bodies, these councils waste time and money through duplication at best, and conflicting agendas at worst.

I see too much of taxpayers' dollars being spent by these councils to protect their own jobs, rather than benefit our communities. Forced amalgamation is the solution.

Sincerely,

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