

From: David Allen [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 29 July 2015 5:34 PM
To: Local Government Mailbox; IPART Mailbox
Subject: RE: Proposed Council Amalgamations: Against

To: iPart, Level 15, 2-24 Rawson Place, SYDNEY NSW 2000; ipart@ipart.nsw.gov.au

Ref: NSW Council Amalgamation: Against (Resubmitted)

Australia gets quite a lot of strong 'advice' from powerful 'friends' who may perhaps have never visited Australia. Brisbane's G20 and the associated Basel4 recommendations for our Banking system spring to mind.

I wrote to the Basel group, saying that it may be inappropriate to even consider implementing Basel4 until Basel3 has been implemented and evaluated and they appear to agree with my opinion, registering me to attend their Risk Management conference in August and postponing Basel4 until the end of 2015.

The advice about amalgamating out councils appears to fall into the same category. An evaluation of recent amalgamations might show that Benefits for local residents and for Australia are exceedingly difficult to identify. Council rates have increased, debt levels at personal, council, state and federal level have increased enormously in recent years. Larger councils bring the opportunity for increased levels of corruption and some may have availed themselves of such opportunities. Larger councils increase the power of councils to suppress the voice of local residents and some may have availed themselves of this opportunity.

The proposal does not address the real issues that are associated with local government.

I have been to two iPart meetings on different topics. They are not an elected body and they do not use statistical analysis as strongly as I might recommend. Lobbyists seem to find that meetings from bodies such as iPart provide opportunities for financial reward and one person who may have been a lobbyist interrupted my mathematical questions at iPart's electricity meeting. It was interesting that several microphones at iPart's electricity meeting 'died' and my comment, that this showed that technology was getting away from us, drew laughter from the audience. iPart's Amalgamation-criteria appear to be arbitrary and their ToR-document does not appear to be rigorous.

'Benefits for Australia' is a theme I have used to achieve significant benefits for the citizens of Canada Bay and for the wider community. Improving our sewerage system, reducing debt, improving financial management of CDO's etc and free public transport (the 555 bus) are some successful policies I put forward when I ran for Mayor of Canada Bay several years ago.

I have other similar policies that can benefit Australia and I suggest it may be wiser to concentrate on them than on new amalgamations. We are currently celebrating the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta and I suggest that Australians could make better use of this document in protecting our rights from poorly thought-out policies from the northern hemisphere.

PS: Much of this hastily written document was sent to Canada Bay council last week and I used it when I addressed Council

Yours Sincerely, David Allen

