

From: Melanie Tibballs [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 16 July 2015 9:08 AM
To: council@canadabay.nsw.gov.au
Cc: Local Government Mailbox
Subject: PROPOSED COUNCIL MERGER - CANADA BAY

ATTENTION:

Mayor Angelo Tsikeras
General Manager Gary Sawyer

We have recently been made aware of the proposed Council mergers with Auburn Council. As ratepayers **WE ARE STRONGLY OPPOSED** to any merger with Auburn as we chose to live in Concord/Canada Bay - which is culturally, socially and economically divergent from Auburn. We paid double the price of similar properties in Auburn when we purchased our home at [REDACTED]

While it seems logical to amalgamate Canada Bay with some other inner west councils (as detailed in your first proposal **red text**) – the proposed merger with a Council that creates a municipal area that is long and thin defies the logic of any economies of scale. You may suggest long-term savings for ratepayers - but this seems unbelievable given the geographical area to service.

State Government's proposed merger Canada Bay, Ashfield, Burwood, Leichhardt, Marrickville and Strathfield Councils:

- Residential rates to increase 10-12% Business rates to increase up to 75%
- Service levels drop
- Slowly deteriorating infrastructure
- Meets population benchmark
- Meets only four out of seven financial and asset management benchmarks

Alternate merger – superior option Canada Bay, Burwood, Auburn Councils:

- Long-term savings of \$140 million over 10 years
- Rates remain stable
- Service levels maintained
- Better infrastructure
- Strong connectivity between Councils with Parramatta River, transport hubs and major facilities
- Key strategic centres including Sydney Olympic Park, Rhodes and Burwood Protects local town centres and villages
- Financially best option for our residents Meets population benchmark
- Meets six out of seven financial and asset management benchmarks

How can the Mayor, Angelo Tsikeras, in all honesty, be considering this outrageous 'blend' of Councils – drawing our beautiful Canada Bay region of parks, water, and recreation into the dubious social and quasi industrial region of Auburn!! This may favour rate payers in Auburn – but it certainly detracts from ratepayers in the more prestigious Canada Bay region.

This is very under-handed and 'undemocratic'! When did we have the opportunity to have a say?? We after all rate payers!!

We have a physical letter box, PO box and email (we pay our rates on-line). We never received an email, letter or phone call asking for our opinion.

We are outraged to say the least. I'll say it again **STOP THE MERGER WITH AUBURN!!**

Melanie Tibballs