

SUBMISSION in RESPONSE to
Methodology for Assessment of Council
"Fit for the Future" (FFTF) Proposals.



The methodology is based on a number of criteria SCALE and CAPACITY are basic and must be met if a Council is to be determined to be FIT.

SCALE is an arbitrary number indicating the size of the population. The chosen figure is 250,000 although a numerical range of 200,000 to 250,000 may be accepted in certain circumstances. There is no indication as to how these figures were arrived at.

SCALE is irrelevant, arbitrary which means capricious, despotic.

There is no research which indicates that small is better.

A small organisation can be very efficient.

CAPACITY later modified to STRATEGIC CAPACITY. It is unrealistic to suggest a Council can plan its capacity over 135 years (to the middle of the 21st century - Item 2.1 Page 12). The future is not predictable - less so now than at earlier times. Remdwick City Council does plan forward. Adjustments are made if needed as when unexpected changes or events occur. Flexibility.

Other criteria include -

Sustainability - financial - funds managed with care. Expenditure required for amalgamation is a waste.

Predicted savings of £235m is a myth.

- expert staff - skills development training on-going.

Selection of new staff - values, ambition in harmony

- knowledge - thoughtful local residents and Councillors have knowledge of local area - history and need.

- capacity to operate honestly, ethically with self-discipline

- forget personal and political ambition

Infrastructure Management - prioritize work items

- encourage superior work ethic.

- encourage creativity and innovation through participation of workers in planning jobs.

- Efficiency - continuous training to raise skill level and outlook of staff and Councillors.
- on-going training in ethics
 - - continuing development of shared equipment across boundaries.
 - - continuing collaborative procurement processes across boundaries to minimise cost.
- R. C. C. does this.

Engage honestly with the community. Release data where possible to ensure transparency in dealing with the public.

REMOVE PARTY POLITICS FROM ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT. It is destroying democracy and encourages laziness and can lead to corruption

REVIEW THE ELECTORAL PROCESS. to eliminate the apparent need for vast expense ^{of elections} fuelled through donations to political parties.

Randwick City Council has been actively demonstrating its strategic capacity by securing its financial position and using some resources to improve interaction with its community.

Additional attention should be given to a Council's responsibility for social aspects.

- ageing community
- youth - human interaction to encourage growth toward maturity.
 - employment
 - involvement
 - life skills. - goal setting
- parenting.
- mental health
- knowledge .e.g. drugs.

Although ILGRP listed "no change" as an option (Page 12), Rancivick Councillors have promulgated the idea that this is not an option.

In September 2016 the RCC voted unanimously to oppose amalgamation and to remain a "stand alone" Council.

The Community Survey designed by a select group of Councillors was structured with bias toward an amalgamation choice.

Q7 Should Rancivick City Council be amalgamated
 Yes No Unsure.

I understand the response was 32% yes, 49% no and 19% unsure.

Q10 provided 7 alternative scenarios from no change to amalgamation of 5 councils into a global city. Respondents were asked to "rank your top three preferences by writing numbers 1, 2, 3 into the boxes". These amalgamation preferences were then added to

together making 51%. equating the 19% unsure as ^{all} supporting amalgamation. This is false statistics.

The survey was confusing, Council's analysis false, I believe.

Item 2.1.1. FTF.

Councils required to be strategic partners with State and Federal governments suggests that the Council will be pressured into accepting more significant levels of development which is a goal of developers - national and international. The comprehensive LEP and the recent DCP provide for substantial development to 27m (8-9 stories) in Kenwick City at locations in Town Centres. These documents were accepted by the State Government, the LEP with acclamation. The developers are now pressuring the State Government for more.

Any organisation can be criticized the State Government included. It is far too close to developers and can be dependent on them. If overseas corporations develop these massive buildings the profits flow out of Australia. Is this a good thing for our country? our economy?

Construction of high rise buildings in Kennington and Kingsford etc. has the additional... + 6. problem of the underground water.

The global City the ILGRP seeks cannot be achieved if the State Government holds to its promise of no forced amalgamations. Sydney, Woollahra, Randwick (September 2014) Botany Bay all opt for no change.

Why does Waverley hanker for amalgamation it has money now from the sale of the bus depot and should be able to get on with any needed revitalisation.

There is no advantage for Randwick to join with Waverley. Randwick is a large area extending from Oxford Street to Le Bourne.

The current mayor of Randwick City has expressed his personal wish for amalgamation with Waverley. He appears to be confused by proclaiming "no change" is not possible and that massive savings are to be made by amalgamating. The Lord Mayor of Sydney is reported in the press as saying that there was considerable expense in aligning policies and systems when Sydney was joined by South Sydney in 2004.

Having read many Council documents over many years I believe that RCC already has documentation to support a stand-alone position. It has the information to hand to build a business case to support this position and to meet the benchmarks elicited in Figure 3.1 Page 28, Table 3.3 Page 30, Table 3.4 Page 31 etc. A consultant could be employed to assist. . . . 7.

Page 32,

I note the comment at the end of Page 32 — but it seems unreasonable to expect Councils to be in debt. At the beginning of the second millennium RCC set out to become debt-free and achieved that some years ago.

I understand the case you put that some debt may enable a Council to achieve future efficiencies. However, this may not be necessary for all Councils, and avoiding debt seems to be preferable if it can be managed.

All organisations can be improved — new ideas, new technologies, new circumstances etc open up opportunities for improvement.

The application of the assessment of Council Proposals to be "Fit for the Future" should not burden a Council that has improved and will continue to do so in a measured, intelligent way.

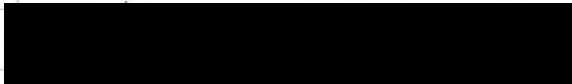
The IPART proposed process appears to me to be too complicated to result in a fair, ethical, transparent and consistent assessment across NSW and I believe the government should act on the decisions of the Councils throughout the state (140) to remain separate Councils. If further proof is needed — LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE by asking the Electoral Commission run a referendum with a straight forward question and a straight forward answer sought

SHOULD OUR COUNCIL AMALGAMATE
WITH ANOTHER COUNCIL OR OTHER
COUNCILS, TICK ON BOX ONLY

YES NO

In reality, of course the answer is already available only two Councils out of 140 have given a positive answer to that question.

In the assessment keep the "no change" option and acknowledge the response the Councils across NSW have made.


Chairman of Kensington and West Kingsford
District.