

Hunters Hill Council Meeting 9 November 2015

Re: Council Response to NSW Government's 'Fit for the Future' Process

Hunters Hill Council passed the following unanimous resolutions:

1. Hunters Hill Council maintains its current local government area boundaries and governance structure;
2. Council reaffirms its opposition to the forced amalgamation of councils;
3. Council reaffirms its commitment to local government remaining local, rather than regional, so as to ensure local democracy and accessibility to local communities;
4. Council reaffirms its previously resolved commitment to and participation in the Joint Regional Authority (JRA) model with Ryde and Lane Cove Councils, whilst also maintaining our independence as Councils;
5. Following community consultation and strong community support to remain an independent council that works collaboratively with neighbouring councils on regional issues and joint service delivery, Council does not pursue a merger with any other council;
6. Having previously submitted the JRA model as a superior model for further improvement and given the unanimous multi-partisan endorsement of the JRA model by the NSW Legislative Council Inquiry into Local Government in NSW, Council does not submit any response to the template due on 18 November, subject to seeking legal advice;
7. Council endorses its support of the "Rally for Local Democracy" on 18 November;
8. The Extraordinary Meeting of Council scheduled for 16 November be cancelled;
9. Council endorses the forwarding of correspondence from the Mayor to the Premier and the Minister for Local Government seeking urgent clarification of the NSW Government's intent regarding any forced merger of Councils.
10. Copies of any correspondence is forwarded to all Councillors for their information;
11. The report of the Upper House Committee on Local Government is endorsed and Council calls on the State Government to withdraw the statement that 'Councils are unfit', as it was based on a flawed methodology and acknowledge recommendations number 16 and 17 in respect of Joint Regional Authorities and finding number 9 relating to projected economic outcomes and benefits being overstated.

12. Council writes to the Premier, the Minister for Local Government and the Member for Lane Cove in respect of the above matters.

The above resolutions of Council have the strong support of the Hunters Hill community. This is a principled response that places the legitimate needs and aspirations of local communities first.

The resolutions also reveal the appropriate way forward for local government reform in this State.

Phil Jenkyn OAM and Ross Williams Emeritus Mayor

Co-convenors Save Hunters Hill Municipality Coalition (SHHMC)

Web: <http://savehuntershill.org>

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