

Independent Local Government Review Panel
C/- Locked Bag 3015
Nowra NSW 2541
12 February 2013

Re: Amalgamation Threat to Hunters Hill

Dear Panel,

We refer to the earlier email seeking a meeting with the Panel.

The *Save Hunters Hill Municipality Coalition* (SHHMC) was established in 2003 to fight the then attempt to amalgamate Hunters Hill with Ryde. That attempt was unsuccessful for very good reason and our then website has been archived – [Website 2003 Battle](#). SHHMC was reactivated in December 2012 with two convenors and two coordinators for each of eight precincts, and has developed a new website www.savehuntershill.org and adopted a number of actions and strategies. SHHMC is a coalition of community and precinct groups and residents within Hunters Hill determined to save and preserve our historic Municipality. As we are an open and transparent community group pursuing the public interest this document is obviously in the public arena.

Hunters Hill Municipality is one of the oldest and most historic local government areas in the State (1861), retains its original boundaries and is Australia's oldest surviving 'garden suburb'. It has a strong and close-knit community. It achieves economies of scale by appropriate outsourcing and by collaborating within a voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils (ROCs). The Council is well run and has the confidence of its community.

It is clear that the Review Panel is considering recommending to Government amalgamating certain councils within Sydney and in parts of the country. The NSW Government promised at the last election that there would be no forced council amalgamations and that communities would be respected and valued.

In an article in the Daily Telegraph on 4 December 2012, after an exclusive interview with the Minister for Local Government, Hunters Hill was named as one of a number of councils under possible threat of amalgamation.

The Hunters Hill Council and the Local State member have come out strongly as opposed to the amalgamation of Hunters Hill and in support of its community. The case for the retention of the independence of the Municipality is overwhelming, as can be seen from the attached 'Position Statement'. Also attached is a statement to Parliament by Anthony Roberts MP in 2003 and a recent press article.

Historic Councils like Hunters Hill, with their strong and close communities, should be valued and protected by Government. They play an important role in guarding both our built and natural heritage and in nurturing community values.

SHHMC wishes to meet with the Review Panel as a matter of urgency. We feel that there is a basic failure shown by the Panel and others to date in understanding what it is that makes councils and

communities like Hunters Hill so successful and why they need to be valued, protected and preserved.

Can we suggest that such a meeting include the Mayor of Hunters Hill, who is also the President of NSROC.

Kind regards,

Ross Williams Emeritus Mayor and Philip Jenkyn OAM

Co –Convenors Save Hunters Hill Municipality Coalition

0417 490 646



Cc Mayor Richard Quinn and General Manager Barry Smith Hunters Hill Council

Attachments:

['Position Statement'](#) – Hunters Hill Threat of Amalgamation – December 2012

['Statement to Parliament by Anthony Roberts'](#) – 28 October 2003

['MP: Let's make Hunters Hill a National Treasure'](#) – The Weekly Times 19 December 2012

From: Williams Ross

Sent: Thursday, 20 December 2012 9:42 AM

To: 'info@localgovernmentreview.nsw.gov.au'

Cc: 'sue.anderson@localgovernmentreview.nsw.gov.au'

Subject: Save Hunters Hill Municipality Coalition

Attention Sue Anderson

Dear Sue,

I spoke to you earlier this week seeking a meeting with Professor Samson and/ or the Panel to discuss our concern regarding the impact of the proposed changes to local government as described in the Panel's most recent documents.

We feel that the Panel has not been able to adequately cover the role of small local government and the role of local government and community. It should not be just about services and big corporate governance.

The attached document details our position and we are very keen to speak to the Panel to put our views more fully. Please note this not a formal submission to the Panel as we propose to make a more detailed response in the New Year.

Could you please contact me on 0417490646 to organise a time for us to speak with Professor Samson and hopefully the wider panel.

Regards

Ross Williams

Co -Convenor Save Hunters Hill Municipality Coalition

Website www.savehuntershill.org

0417490646