

File Ref: F2004/06554

4 April 2013

Local Government Report Consultation
Office of Local Government
Locked Bag 3015
NOWRA, NSW 2541

Dear Sir/Madam

Subject: Randwick City Precinct Submissions – Local Government Reform

It was resolved at the Ordinary Meeting of Randwick City Council, 25 March 2014, that Council note the submissions received from the Precinct Committees and forward them to the State Government on their behalf.

The following comments have been received from the Randwick City Precinct Groups in relation to Council's Submission – Local Government Reform:

Malabar Precinct

On 13 March 2014 Malabar Precinct unanimously resolved "That this Precinct is opposed to the Randwick City amalgamating with any other Council in any form, and that we have perfect confidence in the Randwick Council continuing to operate as a stand-alone Council."

Matraville Precinct

On question 42 of in the local government reform draft submission paper - which discusses amalgamations in particular forced amalgamations, the precinct was against forced amalgamations with a global city or any other council that Randwick City Council remain as stand alone continue to serve local communities locally. The precinct committee meeting groups voted completely against any amalgamations and any suggestions of a fall back position to go with any other council if forced would send a wrong message to the state government.

The Precinct voted a majority NO to amalgamations in any form.

Coogee Precinct

The Coogee Precinct is of the view that forced Council amalgamations are unlikely in NSW due to the experience of those state governments that have forced Council amalgamations in the recent past.

The Coogee Precinct has concerns about Randwick Council entering into a Joint Organisation as set out in recommendation 43. The Coogee Precinct is concerned about any Joint Organisation with Woollahra and Waverley Councils. The recent statements by the Mayors of these two LGAs about the NSW Government restrictions relating to lock outs and early closing for late trading license venues, give the Coogee Precinct little confidence that issues relating to late trading licensed venues in Coogee would receive support in any arrangement with these two LGAs. The fact that Coogee's beachside reserves are used as beer gardens for backpackers from Bondi adds to the concerns.

Randwick and Waverley as coastal councils do have some communities of interest however the similarities in socio economic factors are limited geographically and certainly do not apply between Randwick and Woollahra. There is concern that services or facilities not desired in Waverley or Woollahra will be dumped on our area, as happened with Long Bay Jail last century and Sobering Up Centre for all of the eastern suburbs this century.

At the Precinct meeting it was explained that these "Joint Organisations" would not in fact be permanent structures. They would instead be a coming together of various Councils for regional strategic planning purposes according to the need the State Government has at the time. They would be in lieu of the State government dealing with multiple Councils on an issue. It was also explained that the linking of Randwick, Waverley and Woollahra was the recommendation in the Report of the Local Government Review but is not how Randwick would see these "Joint Organisations" working. Rather they would be composed according to the need at the time.

These explanations go some way to assuaging concerns but the Precinct would wish to see more information.

Thank you for providing the Coogee Precinct with this opportunity to comment.

Randwick Precinct

The meeting (5th March) noted that a 'global city' council would completely subsume local issues and representation, especially for sporting facilities, which were an important part of the lifestyle in Randwick. The system of ward councillors worked well in Randwick.

An attendee noted that the State Government had a policy of 'no forced amalgamations', other attendees noted that a referendum should be held on any Council amalgamation or major change in boundaries.

La Perouse Precinct

The chair asked for a vote on three options; a global Sydney council comprising about 6 current LGA's, combining with Waverly, Woollahra and parts of Botany and the third option of Randwick Council staying as is now. It was unanimous that Randwick Council stay as is with no amalgamation. The notion of a global Sydney Council was totally rejected.

It was resolved that the Chair ask Council to detail how the foreshadowed \$500 million would be saved if there were to be an amalgamation of the eastern Suburbs Councils.

Malabar Central Precinct

Attendees drafted a motion regarding the amalgamation: "The committee raises a motion to object to the amalgamation of local councils. The reasons are for the following:

1. Loss of services to rate payers;
2. Loss of access to local electoral representatives;
3. Loss of Council employees and jobs;
4. Loss of valuable assets which could be sold off"

The resolution passed unanimously.

Please contact me should you have any questions or comments in relation to this Submission via telephone 9399 0532 or email anne.warner@randwick.nsw.gov.au

Yours faithfully



Anne Warner
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Randwick City Council