



Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc

ABN 50 518 833 556

30 July 2017

Cllr Hutchens Mayor, and all Councillors
Lane Cove Council
PO Box 20, Lane Cove NSW 1595

Re: Proposed Amalgamation

We are writing to thank Council for its successful resistance to the proposed Council amalgamation, which resulted in the Premier's announcement on Thursday 27 July 2017.

As you are aware, the LCB&CS consistently opposed the forced amalgamation of Lane Cove Council with any other council since the process began. The first of numerous submissions to several government bodies was made in 2013.

We also supported all of Council's moves to prevent amalgamation. We asked questions of the various Ministers with little or no meaningful response. We lobbied our local State member, who had publicly spoken against amalgamation. We used reason, logic and cited a considerable body of evidence that shows that there is no necessary correlation between council size and efficiency.

Therefore we thank Council for its continued fight for Lane Cove's independence, and in particular those Councillors that unequivocally opposed amalgamation and actively campaigned against it.

We are now most grateful that the process is at an end. We note that the Premier stated that this decision will "end the uncertainty (for ratepayers) with the remaining proposed mergers". We trust that the NSW government's decision will stand firm.

As a Society, we are relieved that our limited resources can now be directed toward more positive measures than continuing to oppose amalgamation. We are pleased to abandon plans to campaign for a 'NO' vote at the poll that was to be held on 9 September 2017.

We value the close co-operation between our Society and Council and Council staff, including our participation on Council advisory committees and involvement with the Bush Kids program. Now that the prospect of amalgamation is ended, we can put more focus on such worthwhile efforts.

Again we thank Council for its perseverance throughout this long process and for its part in securing this welcome outcome.

Margaret Bergomi, President and Graham Holland, Vice President,
for the Committee,
Lane Cove Bushland and Conservation Society Inc

cc The General Manager