

The Honourable  
**Anthony Roberts MP**  
Member for Lane Cove



Ref: 2/1452

Dr Ruth Neumann

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~  
LANE COVE NORTH NSW 2066

30 September 2016

  
Dear Dr Neumann,

Following your representations regarding Council Amalgamations, I have received the enclosed reply from the Minister for Local Government.

Thank you for raising this issue with me and I trust the information provided by the Minister for Local Government has been of assistance to you.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance to you.

Best wishes,



**THE HON ANTHONY ROBERTS MP**  
**MEMBER FOR LANE COVE**  
**MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY, RESOURCES AND ENERGY**  
**LEADER OF THE HOUSE**

AR:JV



**The Hon Paul Toole MP**  
Minister for Local Government

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The Hon AJ Roberts MP  
Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy  
Member for Lane Cove  
PO Box 524  
GLADESVILLE NSW 2111

28 SEP 2016

Dear Minister

Thank you for your letter of 12 May 2016 on behalf of Dr Ruth Neumann, President of the Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc, concerning the proposed merger of Lane Cove Council with the Municipality of Hunters Hill and the City of Ryde. I apologise for my delay in response.

I am aware that the Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society has made various submissions to the local government reform process over the past four years, and I welcome their engagement and contribution.

As Ms Neumann might be aware, I announced my in-principle support for the proposed merger on 12 May 2016, with my final decision pending the outcome of legal action. In providing this support, I carefully considered the Delegate's report in the context of extensive consultation with the community and the sector regarding local government reform.

The Delegate Report and the collections of submissions received to the consultation undertaken by the Delegate, is available directly from the website [www.strongercouncils.nsw.gov.au](http://www.strongercouncils.nsw.gov.au).

Please advise Ms Neumann that I have also given a commitment that the heritage and environmental protections of the existing council and the unique character of the Ryde community will remain. The projected \$86 million in financial benefits over the next twenty years from the merger will also provide a new Council with significantly enhanced capacity to manage environmental and conservation issues in the community.

Thank you again for raising Ms Neumann's concerns with me. If you have any further questions, please contact Mr Steve Orr, Executive Director, Local Government Reform, within the Department of Premier and Cabinet on [eplgrmail@dpc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:eplgrmail@dpc.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

Paul Toole MP  
**Minister**