



Lane Cove Bushland & Conservation Society Inc

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The Hon Paul Toole
Minister for Local Government
Parliament House
6 Macquarie Street,
Sydney, NSW 2000.
Dear Minister

January 3 2017

RE: The merger of Lane Cove, Hunters Hill and Ryde Councils

On June 30, 2016, the Lane Cove Bushland and Conservation Society wrote to you, cc the Premier and Anthony Roberts, asking the following questions:

1 Why the merger of Lane Cove, Hunters Hill and Ryde councils was preferred to the merger of Lane Cove, Hunters Hill, Mosman, North Sydney, Willoughby and part of Ryde councils as proposed by the ILGRP and IPART and accepted by the Government.

2 What specific quantified criteria were used to conclude that merger of Lane Cove, Hunters Hill and Ryde would have sufficient “scale and capacity”.

We have not received a reply. From our familiarity with ILGRP, IPART and the Boundary Commission documents we have long suspected that no quantified criteria were used.

This was confirmed by the Premier at the Local Government Conference on the 17th and 18th of October 2016 when he revealed that the “ideal” number of 150,000 people in the new forced merger of Lane Cove, Hunters Hill and Ryde was plucked out the air -being midway between Blacktown Council (300,000 people) and Hunters Hill Council (15,000 people)- rather than being based on sound empiric evidence and the specifics of each case.

Therefore would you please respond to our original questions and identify what specific quantified criteria were used to determine that Lane Cove Council did not have the “scale and capacity” to be “fit for the future”. Otherwise we will continue to consider that the proposed merger is ill advised and that it should not proceed on such an unsound basis.

Yours sincerely

Graham Holland

Vice President LCBCS on behalf of the Executive Committee.