



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 6

4 June 2015

Clr Ross Fowler
Penrith City Council
Mayor

Dear Clr Fowler

Inquiry into local government in New South Wales

As you may be aware, the NSW Legislative Council's General Purpose Standing Committee No. 6 is currently conducting an inquiry into local government in New South Wales. The terms of reference for the inquiry are attached for your information.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to invite you to make a submission to the inquiry. The closing date for submissions is **Sunday, 5 July 2015**.

Submissions can be lodged by:

- the committee's website at www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/gpsc6
- email to gpsc6@parliament.nsw.gov.au
- letter to The Director, General Purpose Standing Committee No. 6, Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000.

Submissions are confidential until the committee decides to publish them. Once published, submissions are usually placed on the committee's website. Please note that personal contact details will be removed. If you would like to request that all or some of your submission be kept **confidential**, including your identity, you need to state so clearly in your submission. The committee will consider your request.

If the committee accepts your submission, it will be protected by parliamentary privilege. Anyone who republishes a committee document may be subject to the laws of defamation.

Further details about the inquiry such as hearing details will be published on the committee's website as they become available.

Further information about participating in an Upper House inquiry, including a guide to writing submissions, can be found at www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/web/common.nsf/key/LCCcommitteesGetInvolved

If you would like any further information about the inquiry or making a submission, please do not hesitate to contact Mr John Miller, Principal Council Officer, on (02) 9230 2354 or Ms Rhia Victorino, Principal Council Officer, on (02) 9230 2641.

The committee would appreciate your contribution to this inquiry.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul Green', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Hon Paul Green MLC
Committee Chair

Please note: The committee requests that this email be forwarded to every councillor in Penrith City Council.



Inquiry into local government in New South Wales

Terms of Reference

1. That General Purpose Standing Committee No. 6 inquire into and report on local government in New South Wales and in particular:
 - (a) the New South Wales Government's 'Fit for the Future' reform agenda,
 - (b) the financial sustainability of the local government sector in New South Wales, including the measures used to benchmark local government as against the measures used to benchmark State and Federal Government in Australia,
 - (c) the performance criteria and associated benchmark values used to assess local authorities in New South Wales,
 - (d) the scale of local councils in New South Wales,
 - (e) the role of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) in reviewing the future of local government in New South Wales, assisted by a South Australian commercial consultant,
 - (f) the appropriateness of the deadline for 'Fit for the Future' proposals,
 - (g) costs and benefits of amalgamations for local residents and businesses,
 - (h) evidence of the impact of forced mergers on council rates drawing from the recent Queensland experience and other forced amalgamation episodes,
 - (i) evidence of the impact of forced mergers on local infrastructure investment and maintenance,
 - (j) evidence of the impact of forced mergers on municipal employment, including aggregate redundancy costs,
 - (k) the known and or likely costs and benefits of amalgamations for local communities,
 - (l) the role of co-operative models for local government including the 'Fit for the Futures' own Joint Organisations, Strategic Alliances, Regional Organisations of Councils, and other shared service models, such as the Common Service Model,
 - (m) how forced amalgamation will affect the specific needs of regional and rural councils and communities, especially in terms of its impact on local economies,

- (n) protecting and delivering democratic structures for local government that ensure it remains close to the people it serves,
 - (o) the impact of the 'Fit for the Future' benchmarks and the subsequent IPART performance criteria on councils' current and future rate increases or levels, and
 - (p) any other related matter.
2. That with the agreement of the committee participating members' travel costs be covered by the committee.
 3. That the committee report by Monday 17 August 2015, unless the committee resolves to table at a later date.

Resolution passed 27 May 2015, Minutes No. 7, item 18 page 131 - 132.

Committee membership

The Hon Paul Green MLC	Christian Democratic Party	<i>Chair</i>
The Hon Lou Amato MLC	Liberal Party	<i>Deputy Chair</i>
The Hon Catherine Cusack MLC	Liberal Party	
The Hon Scott Farlow MLC	Liberal Party	
The Hon Peter Primrose	Australian Labor Party	
Mr David Shoebridge MLC	The Greens	
The Hon Ernest Wong MLC	Australian Labor Party	

*Mr Peter Primrose has replaced Mr Daniel Mookhey as a member of the committee for the duration of the inquiry.