



9 DECEMBER 2014

LATE ITEMS

**Ordinary Meeting of Council Meeting No. 20/14
TUESDAY, 9 DECEMBER 2014**

**Council Chambers, Level 6, Civic Centre,
1 Devlin Street, Ryde - 7.30pm**

Meeting Date: Tuesday 9 December 2014
Location: Council Chambers, Level 6, Civic Centre, 1 Devlin Street, Ryde
Time: 7.30pm

Council Meetings will be recorded on audio tape for minute-taking purposes as authorised by the Local Government Act 1993. Council Meetings will also be webcast.

NOTICE OF BUSINESS

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LATE ITEMS – PRECIS OF CORRESPONDENCE

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LATE ITEMS – PRECIS OF CORRESPONDENCE

2 "FIT FOR THE FUTURE" - KU-RING-GAI COUNCIL

Report prepared by: Executive Assistant to the Mayor
File No.: COR2010/700 - BP14/1489

CORRESPONDENCE:

Submitting correspondence from Ku-ring-gai Council, dated 21 November 2014, regarding Fit for the Future discussions.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the correspondence be noted and that the Acting General Manager respond and advise Council's current position.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Letter from Ku-ring-gai Council regarding Council resolution to consider merger proposals with surrounding Councils

Report Prepared By:

Linda Smith
Executive Assistant to the Mayor

Report Approved By:

Dominic Johnson
Acting General Manager

PRECIS OF CORRESPONDENCE 2 (continued)

ATTACHMENT 1

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2014/290531 / S09638
21 November 2014

Cr Bill Pickering
Mayor
City of Ryde
Locked Bag 2069
NORTH RYDE NSW 1670

Dear Cr Pickering *Bill*

Re: Fit for the Future – Discussions

On 11 November 2014 Council considered a report on Fit for the Future. Council resolved as follows:

- A. That Council commence preparation of a "Council Improvement Proposal (Existing Structure)" for submission to the NSW Government by 30 June 2015.
- B. Notwithstanding A. above, that Council proactively begin discussions with surrounding Councils about Merger proposals, engaging facilitators and other consultants as necessary to enable a report to be brought back to Council in February 2015 with possible configuration options before proceeding to the next step in the Merger proposal process and preparing a detailed business case for consultation with the community.
- C. That the Mayor and General Manager attend all relevant meetings with surrounding Councils to discuss potential options under the Fit for the Future program, including those called by NSROC or the proposed Northern Metropolitan Council of Mayors.

Accordingly, I would like to ascertain your interest in participating in discussions that accord with Part B of the above resolution.

I note that facilitators to assist in this process are available via an arrangement with the Office of Local Government.

I look forward to discussing this proposal with you in the near future.

Yours sincerely

Jennifer G. Anderson
Jennifer Anderson
Mayor

3 "FIT FOR THE FUTURE" - HORNSBY SHIRE COUNCIL

Report prepared by: Executive Assistant to the Mayor

File No.: COR2010/700 - BP14/1490

CORRESPONDENCE:

Submitting correspondence from Hornsby Shire Council, dated 24 November 2014, regarding "Fit for the Future".

RECOMMENDATION:

That the correspondence be noted and the Acting General Manager respond and advise Council's current position.

ATTACHMENTS

1 Letter from Hornsby Shire Council regarding Fit for the Future

Report Prepared By:

Linda Smith

Executive Assistant to the Mayor


Report Approved By:

Dominic Johnson

Acting General Manager

PRECIS OF CORRESPONDENCE 3 (continued)

ATTACHMENT 1

**HORNSBY
SHIRE COUNCIL**

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

RECEIVED
City of Ryde
Records Management Services
27 NOV 2014
Doc No:
File No:

24 November 2014

Mr Dominic Johnson
Acting General Manager
City of Ryde Council
Locked Bag 2069
NORTH RYDE NSW 1670

Dear Mr Johnson *Dominic*

Local Government Reform – NSW Government’s “Fit for the Future” Announcements

At its 12 November 2014 General Meeting, Council considered Deputy General Manager’s Report No. CS42/14 – Local Government Reform – NSW Government’s “Fit for the Future” Announcements – and resolved that:

1. The contents of Deputy General Manager’s Report No. CS42/14, which details the NSW Government’s response to the final reports of the Independent Local Government Review Panel (ILGRP) and the Local Government Acts Taskforce under the banner of “Fit for the Future”, be received and noted.
2. Council note that to be Fit for the Future under the Government’s criteria, a council firstly needs to have sufficient Scale and Capacity (broadly in line with the recommendations of the ILGRP) which the Government believes will equip the council to engage effectively across community, industry and government. A Fit for the Future council will then also need to be able to demonstrate against the Government’s criteria that it is sustainable, efficient and able to effectively manage infrastructure and deliver services for its community.
3. As Council does not have sufficient Scale and Capacity to be Fit for the Future under the Government’s requirements, a Steering Committee comprising the Mayor and Councillors Tilbury, Singh and Hutchence be established to undertake discussions with our neighbouring councils regarding the possibility of merging with one or a number of those councils to create a new entity which meets the Scale and Capacity requirements of the Government.
4. In respect of the Government’s Fit for the Future criteria for sustainability, efficiency and effectively managing infrastructure and services, it be noted that Hornsby Shire Council currently meets the Government’s requirements to be Fit for the Future in respect of:
 - Operating Performance Ratio
 - Own Source Revenue Ratio
 - Infrastructure Backlog Ratio

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PRECIS OF CORRESPONDENCE 3 (continued)

ATTACHMENT 1

Mr Dominic Johnson

Page 2

- Debt Service Ratio
- Real Operating Expenditure per capita

but does not currently meet the requirements to be Fit for the Future in respect of:

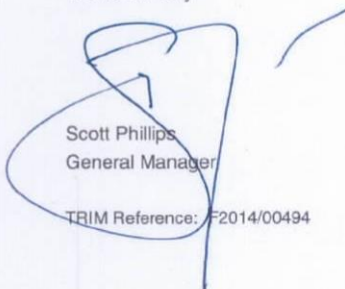
- Building and Infrastructure Asset Renewal Ratio
 - Asset Maintenance Ratio
5. The General Manager advise the Fit for the Future Regional Relationship Manager/s appointed by the Office of Local Government for northern Sydney councils of Council's resolution and seek their support in providing access to skilled facilitator/s and technical experts who will be able to assist the discussions with our neighbouring councils.
 6. The General Manager and members of Council's Steering Committee provide regular briefings to all Councillors in respect of the progress of discussions with our neighbouring councils.
 7. A further report be prepared for Council's consideration in early 2015 which details how Council should progress the development of its Fit for the Future roadmap.

In line with Points 3 and 5 of Council's resolution, it will be appreciated if you can advise me of your Council's position in respect of participating in discussions to explore the possibility of merging with Hornsby Council to create a new entity which meets the scale and capacity requirements of the NSW Government's Fit for the Future announcements.

Please note that I have also written to Ku-ring-gai, Parramatta and The Hills Councils seeking their Council's positions. I have also written to the Office of Local Government's Fit for the Future Regional Relationship Manager for Northern Sydney Councils to seek their support in providing access to skilled facilitator/s and technical experts who will be able to assist Hornsby's discussions with its neighbouring councils.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully



Scott Phillips
General Manager

TRIM Reference: F2014/00494

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