

City of Ryde

Community Engagement Program:

Research outcomes

Fit for our Future

 City of Ryde



Summary of engagement program

1. Telephone Survey – May 2013
conducted by an independent external company
2. Community Meeting – June 2013
conducted by an independent external company
3. Online Poll – March 2015
poll conducted through Council's website
4. Telephone Survey – March 2015
conducted by an independent external company

Telephone Survey

	Number of participants	Micromex Research undertook the telephone survey on behalf of Council Key statistics / feedback
May 2013	600	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A sample size of 600 provided a maximum sampling error of plus or minus 4.0% at 95% confidence ▪ 70% Of residents claim to be aware of the review of the Local Government System. ▪ 93% of residents indicated that it is important to be consulted with about this issue. ▪ At a broad level, 56% of residents were not very supportive - not at all supportive of the amalgamation option versus 22% who are supportive - very supportive. ▪ If pressed, the preferred merge option is to merge eastwards (42%), however, 38% still oppose amalgamation outright. • Only 3% of residents support the Panel's proposal of a merger with Parramatta, Holroyd and Auburn

Community Meeting June 2013

Meeting Facilitated by Urbis Consulting

The workshop, held on 3 June 2013 and attended by 138 people, provided participants with an opportunity to find out more about the proposed reforms, and provide their feedback.

Based on the considerable attendance at the workshop and the nature of feedback received, it was evident that the proposed reforms are contentious and of interest to the Ryde community. Participants demonstrated a high level of pride in and attachment to their community, and emphasised the importance of local representation, decision makers' knowledge of local needs and issues, and Council being accessible and accountable.

An area of particular concern in relation to the reforms is the proposal to amalgamate Ryde with Parramatta, Auburn and Holroyd Councils. Therefore, much of the discussion at workshops focussed on challenges and issues associated with this particular aspect of the proposals. There is greater support for amalgamation with northern Council's on the basis of shared interests and identity, and an established relationship through NSROC.

Participants at the workshop were generally supportive of improving the governance and financial sustainability of local governments, though many felt that these outcomes could be achieved without amalgamation. NSROC was cited on a number of occasions as a well-functioning regional network, already achieving efficiencies through collaboration.

There is a high level of interest in the rationale for reform (particularly amalgamation) and concern regarding the adequacy research underpinning the proposed changes. Participants indicated a strong desire to know more and receive further information, to inform their views on the proposed reforms.

Telephone Survey – March 2015

Research undertaken by Micromex

March
2015

Overall satisfaction with the performance of the City of Ryde Council is strong and has significantly increased since 2013, with 89% rating Council's performance at least 'somewhat satisfactory'.

In relation to the Local Government encouraging NSW local councils to merge and form new, larger councils, 39% of residents indicated that they knew the plan a little.

Prior to Micromex contacting residents, 62% claimed they were aware of the State Government looking to split Ryde Council to create two new 'Super Councils'. Most common first awareness of this proposal was via 'Council mailout' (37%) and 'newspaper' (31%).

A large percentage of residents were not supportive of the creation of the 'Super Councils', with only 14% indicating they were 'supportive' to 'completely supportive' of this proposal.

77% indicated a preference for Council to stand alone and explore regional efficiencies with other councils.

Key drivers for preferring to stand alone were:

- Large councils would neglect the concerns/issues of the local community
- Current satisfaction with the ability and efficiency of Council
- Local, small scale councils are more efficient and responsive

Key drivers for preferring 'Super Councils':

- More efficiency and accountability
- Economically efficient
- Better co-ordination of services/facilities – removal of service duplication

Fit for our Future

 City of Ryde



Online Poll – March 2015

Do you support the State Government's 'Fit for Future' proposal which would see Ryde split and merged into two other mega Councils?

