



Clr Bill Pickering  
Mayor



From the Office of the Mayor

# NO FORCED AMALGAMATION

**Dear Residents and Ratepayers of the City of Ryde,**

Last year, the State Government announced a major local government reform program - Fit for the Future - that will impact the way all NSW councils operate.

The Fit for the Future proposal for the City of Ryde is a drastic one which would see Ryde destroyed and the community split and dissolved between two new, enormous councils (*see over*). This extreme proposal (no other Sydney metropolitan council is targeted to be extinguished), completely disregards our proud history, unique identity and strong financial performance. It is also at odds with what you, the residents, have told us - that you 'love living in Ryde'.

If the City of Ryde is split, I can guarantee residents in our City that rates will significantly increase together with a cut in services and service standards.

It is also important to stress that the City of Ryde is financially sound and that through the actions taken by Council over the past 12 months in particular has strengthened this position.

Recently, Council again voted unanimously at its meeting on 17 February 2015 to reject the disintegration of the City of Ryde.

Councillors also endorsed an alternative proposal to explore the formation of a joint 'regional' organisation of neighbouring councils. Investigating this regional alignment would see the City of Ryde not only retain its identity, voice and history, but partner with neighbouring councils to our north and east in a way that has the potential to meet the State Government's criteria of size and strategic capability and demonstrate that both the City of Ryde and the region under this model are sustainable and Fit for the Future.

We want to ensure there is an informed community debate to discuss the positive and negative impacts of such an alignment and over the coming weeks we will encourage all residents to 'have a say' to ensure that the City of Ryde is in control of its future.

In the meantime, if you want more information please visit Council's website [www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/fitforthefuture](http://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/fitforthefuture) or call our Customer Service Centre on 9952 8222.

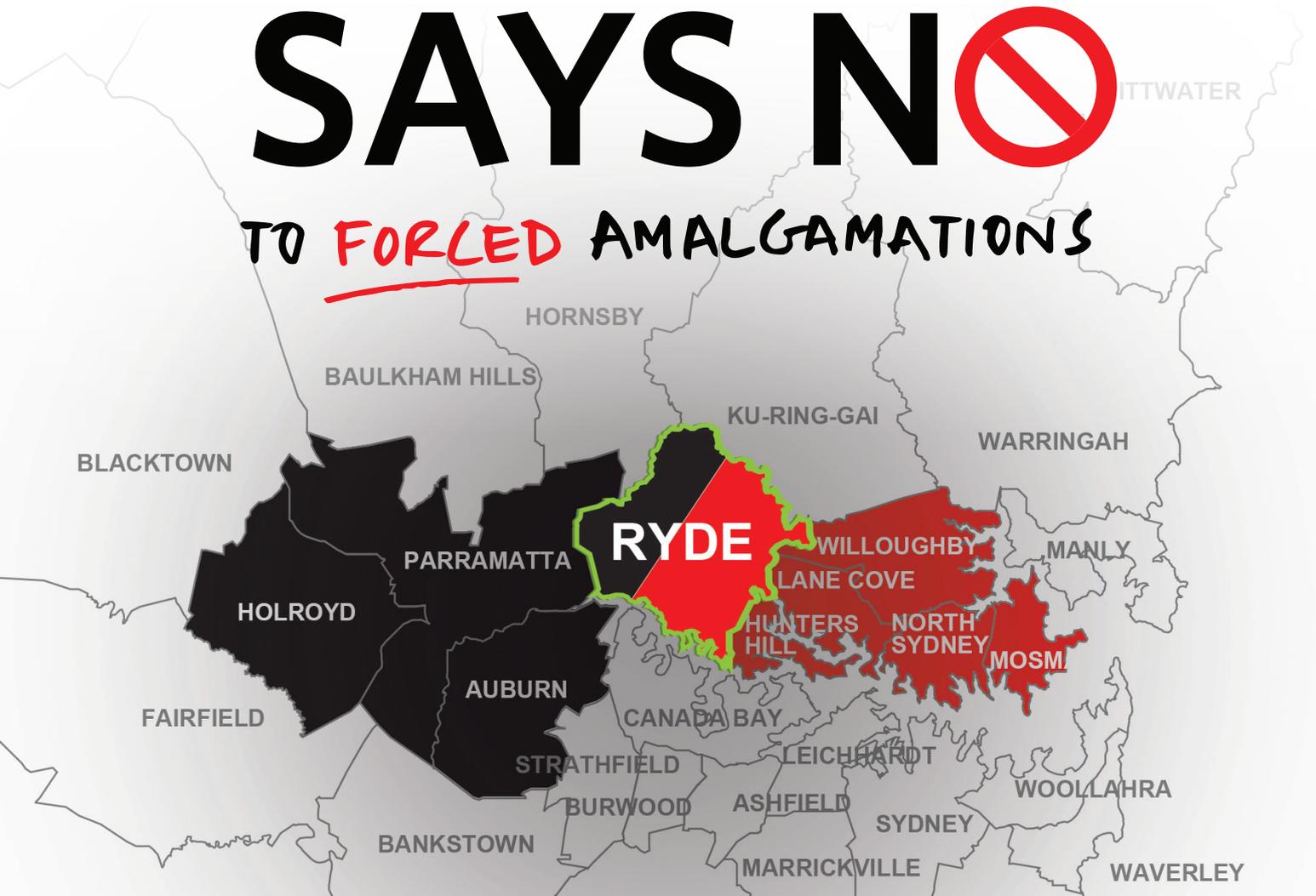
Sincerely,  
Clr Bill Pickering  
Mayor - City of Ryde

 City of Ryde

# RYDE

# SAYS NO

TO FORCED AMALGAMATIONS



The *Fit for the Future* proposal by the State Government is so extreme it would see our Ryde community split and dissolved between two new mega-councils.

Keep the Local in Local Government and find out more about how the City of Ryde is addressing the proposal at [www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/fitforthefuture](http://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/fitforthefuture) or call our Customer Service Centre on 9952 8222.