

Friday 5 July 2013

## **Council responds to Future Directions for Local Government proposal**

In response to the State Government's proposed reform agenda for Local Government, the City of Ryde has welcomed the opportunity to provide a detailed submission to the Independent Local Government Review Panel outlining a number of concerns expressed across the community.

In preparing the submission, Council undertook extensive community consultation through community meetings as well as online and telephone surveys to engage the views of local residents and businesses (see attached survey results).

Key points of the submission include:

- That the Panel's recommendation that Ryde be aligned with Parramatta, Auburn and Holroyd, is at odds with current and developing State plans, is inconsistent and illogical.
- Concern that the consultation undertaken by the Panel had been inadequate given the significant impact the recommendations could have on local communities.
- That the Panel had not fully recognised the value placed by residents on adequate local representation.
- A recommendation that more extensive consultation be undertaken prior to any further action being taken.
- Council's belief that the Panel's case for larger local government areas (ie 'bigger is better') had not been made.
- That future recommendations by the Panel must include significant tangible improvements to the relationship between State and Local Government, particularly with regard to strategic planning, delivery of programs and long term financial sustainability.
- Considerations for Councils to explore a variety of shared service options, including County Council models to achieve economies of scale and efficiencies while maintaining local representation.

To view the full submission as presented to the Independent Local Government Review Panel, go to [www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/amalgamation](http://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/amalgamation)

Attachment: City of Ryde Survey Results – Amalgamation Community Consultation

---

Media contact: Lee Kirkland City of Ryde Media Officer 9952 8083