



1 JUNE 2015

LATE ITEMS

**Ordinary Meeting of Council Meeting No. 10/15
TUESDAY, 9 JUNE 2015**

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

Meeting Date: Tuesday 9 June 2015
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

Item **Page**

LATE ITEMS

PRECIS OF CORRESPONDENCE

1 FIT FOR THE FUTURE EXPERT ADVISORY PANEL - STRATHFIELD
COUNCIL..... 1

PRECIS OF CORRESPONDENCE

1 FIT FOR THE FUTURE EXPERT ADVISORY PANEL - STRATHFIELD COUNCIL

Report prepared by: Executive Assistant to Group Manager
File No.: CSG/14/3/22 - BP15/743

CORRESPONDENCE:

Submitting correspondence from David Backhouse, General Manager Strathfield Council, dated 25 May 2015, regarding Fit for the Future Expert Advisory Panel.

Strathfield Council are requesting Sydney Metropolitan Mayors and LGNSW write to the Premier of NSW the Honorable Mike Baird MP and the Minister for Local Government, the Honorable Paul Toole MP, requesting that the 30 June deadline for submissions of Fit for the Future proposals, be extended by at least two months.

As Council is aware, a Joint Submission from Hunter's Hill, Lane Cove and City of Ryde Councils was lodged with IPART 25 May 2015 in respect of their Proposed Methodology for Assessment of Council Fit for the Future Proposals. Included in the joint submission was a recommendation requesting the Government's agreement to extend the 30 June 2015 deadline by 90 days to 30 September 2015, to allow proper communication and consultation with local communities, once the Assessment Methodology is determined by IPART.

In response to Strathfield's letter, it is recommended that Council endorse writing to the Premier of NSW the Honorable Mike Baird MP and the Minister for Local Government the Honorable Paul Toole MP, in requesting that the 30 June 2015 deadline for submissions of Fit for the Future proposals, be extended by 90 days to 30 September 2015, consistent with the joint Councils' submission to IPART.

RECOMMENDATION:

- (a) That the correspondence be received and noted.
- (b) That Council endorse that the Mayor write to the Premier of NSW the Honorable Mike Baird MP and the Minister for Local Government the Honorable Paul Toole MP, requesting that the 30 June deadline for the submission of Fit for the Future proposals be extended by 90 days to 30 September 2015, consistent with the joint Councils' submission to IPART.
- (c) That Council writes to Strathfield Council to advise of the details in Council's joint submission to IPART on 25 May 2015 and the further actions as detailed in part (b) of the recommendation.

PRECIS OF CORRESPONDENCE 1 (continued)**ATTACHMENTS**

- 1 Letter dated 25 May 2015 from David Backhouse, General Manager of Strathfield Council advising concerns regarding Fit for the Future Expert Advisory Panel

Report Prepared By:

Lorraine Abboud-Safi
Executive Assistant to Group Manager

Report Approved By:

Roy Newsome
Group Manager - Corporate Services

PRECIS OF CORRESPONDENCE 1 (continued)

ATTACHMENT 1



65 Homebush Road, Strathfield NSW 2135
PO Box 120, Strathfield NSW 2135 | P 02 9748 9999 | F 02 9764 1034
E council@strathfield.nsw.gov.au | www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au | ABN 52 719 940 263

Neale Redman

25 May 2015

Gail Connolly
General Manager
Ryde City Council
Locked Bag 2069
NSW 1670

Dear Gail

Fit for the Future Expert Advisory Panel

I am writing to you concerning the recent appointment of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) to fulfill the role of the Expert Advisory Panel to undertake a review of NSW Councils Fit for the Future proposals.

Council recently considered this issue and resolved to write to the Honorable Mike Baird MP Premier of NSW expressing strong concerns in relation to the appointment of IPART. Attached for your information please find a copy of Councils letter.

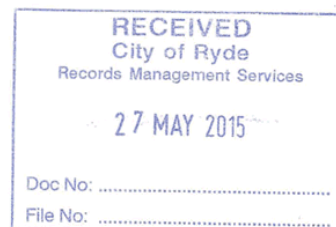
Council also resolved to write to all NSW Councils, the Sydney Metropolitan Mayors and LGNSW requesting that they write to the Premier of NSW the Honorable Mike Baird MP and the Minister for Local Government the Honorable Paul Toole MP and request that the 30 June deadline for the submission of Fit for the Future proposals be extended by at least two months.

Your response concerning this important issue would be appreciated.

Yours faithfully



DAVID BACKHOUSE
GENERAL MANAGER



PRECIS OF CORRESPONDENCE 1 (continued)

ATTACHMENT 1



65 Homebush Road, Strathfield NSW 2135
PO Box 120, Strathfield NSW 2135 | P 02 9748 9999 | F 02 9764 1034
E council@strathfield.nsw.gov.au | www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au | ABN 52 719 940 263

Neale Redman

8 May 2015

The Hon. Mike Baird MP
Premier of New South Wales
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Premier

Fit for the Future Expert Advisory Panel

I refer to your appointment of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) to fulfill the role of the Expert Advisory Panel to undertake a review of NSW Councils Fit for the Future proposals.

In response to your request IPART released a consultation paper on 27 April 2015 concerning methodology for the assessment of Fit for the Future proposals.

Council at its recent meeting resolved as follows:

125/15

RESOLVED: (Bott/Kokkolis)

1. That Council write to the Premier of NSW, Mike Baird, regarding the appointment of IPART to perform the role of the expert advisory panel to assess Fit for the Future proposals submitted by Councils.
2. That Council express its strong concerns in relation to the following issues:
 - The appointment of a temporary part time tribunal member with Local Government sector knowledge to assist IPART is completely inadequate.
 - The appointment of IPART will result in issues of community identity and cohesion not being considered in the assessment of proposals.
 - In view of the fact that the methodology for assessing Fit for the Future proposals will not be finalised until 1 June 2015 the deadline for the submission of proposals to the State Government of 30 June should be extended by at least 2 months.
 - It is completely unacceptable and unrealistic to require Councils to prepare and submit proposals in the absence of the finalised methodology to be used by IPART in the assessment of those proposals.

PRECIS OF CORRESPONDENCE 1 (continued)

ATTACHMENT 1

3. That Council write to all NSW Councils, Sydney Metropolitan Mayors and LGNSW advising of Council's resolution and requesting that they write to the Premier of NSW, Mike Baird, and Minister for Local Government, Paul Toole, and request that the 30 June deadline for submission of Fit for the Future proposals be extended by at least two months.

Voting on this item was unanimous.

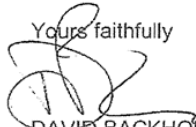
Council considers the appointment of a temporary part time tribunal member with local government experience to assist IPART with the assessments is completely inadequate. It is considered that at least two local government practitioners with experience in local government in NSW should be appointed to the Expert Advisory Panel.

Council is concerned that the lack of local government practitioners with relevant experience will result in issues relating to community identity and cohesion, not being given adequate consideration in the assessment of proposals.

In relation to the timeframes concerning the Fit for the Future process Council considers that it is completely unacceptable and unrealistic to require proposals to be prepared or reconsidered having regard to the methodology to be used by IPART in the period of one month. This is particularly the case due to the need for Councils to consult with their communities concerning their proposals. In view of these issues, Council requests that the deadline for the submission of proposals be extended by at least two months.

Your response concerning these important issues would be appreciated.

Yours faithfully



DAVID BACKHOUSE
GENERAL MANAGER