



23 APRIL 2015

LATE ITEMS

**Ordinary Meeting of Council Meeting No. 7/15
TUESDAY, 28 APRIL 2015**

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

Meeting Date: Tuesday 28 April 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

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PRECIS OF CORRESPONDENCE**2 DELIVERING LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM**

Report prepared by: Executive Assistant to Group Manager
File No.: CSG/14/3/22 - BP15/512

CORRESPONDENCE:

Submitting correspondence from The Hon Paul Toole MP, Minister for Local Government dated 20 April 2015, in relation to Circular No. 15-03 Delivering Local Government Reform.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the correspondence be received and noted.

ATTACHMENTS

1 Ministerial Circular 15-03 dated 20 April 2015

Report Prepared By:

Lorraine Abboud-Safi
Executive Assistant to Group Manager

Report Approved By:

Roy Newsome
Group Manager - Corporate Services

PRECIS OF CORRESPONDENCE 2 (continued)

ATTACHMENT 1



Circular No. 15-03
Date 20 April 2015
Doc ID. A419067

Ministerial Circular

DELIVERING LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM

In September last year, Premier Mike Baird and I announced a record \$1 billion investment to support councils to become Fit for the Future and to strengthen communities across NSW.

The Fit for the Future reform package responds to the final recommendations of the Independent Local Government Review Panel and the Local Government Acts Taskforce and reflects the priorities identified by the sector during the past three years of consultation.

Closing date for submissions

Every council in NSW is being asked to submit a proposal by 30 June 2015, outlining their plans to become Fit for the Future. The proposals will be assessed by an independent expert panel. Councils will need to demonstrate how they meet the threshold criteria of scale and capacity, with a proposal broadly consistent with the recommendation of the Independent Local Government Review Panel, and how they will become and remain sustainable and provide effective and efficient services.

It's clear that our system of local government - with boundaries dating back to the 19th century - will not be able to meet the needs of growing and changing communities. Positive change is needed to ensure that councils will be fit for the future.

We need to build on the strengths of local government and learn from the best councils to develop ways of working smarter together. We want communities to be stronger and able to grow and prosper. The NSW Government has been working collaboratively with the State's 152 councils to design a more sustainable system of local government—one that provides quality services and infrastructure and will help us to deliver the housing, jobs and transport that people need.

Councils are encouraged to continue to prepare their Fit for the Future Proposal and consult the community on proposals for change. Councils have until that date to make important decisions about their council's future and take advantage of the support and benefits on offer. This will allow the new council arrangements to be in place by the September 2016 local government elections.

NSW Government
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

PRECIS OF CORRESPONDENCE 2 (continued)

ATTACHMENT 1

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Fit for the future assessment

The Fit for the Future expert assessment panel will shortly be appointed, with the Terms of reference being developed through the Ministerial Advisory Group (comprising Local Government NSW, Local Government Professionals Australia (NSW) and the United Services Union and chaired by Peter Achterstraat).

I have been encouraged by the number of councils actively exploring the option of voluntary mergers and leading informed and objective conversations with their community. I would strongly urge those councils who are considering a merger to take advantage of the support that is available during this program. This is your opportunity to invest in the long-term future of your community and to ensure your council plays a role in guiding and shaping that future. Expert facilitation and subsidised business case studies are still available under the program, through the Office of Local Government's One Stop Shop.

I look forward to continuing to work with councils over the coming term, as we roll out these significant reforms and ensure local government in NSW is Fit for the Future.

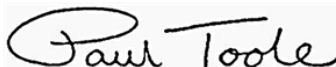
Benefits and support

The NSW Government has committed a funding and support package to assist councils to make the changes needed to become Fit for the Future. These include:

- \$258 million to assist councils who decide to merge and make the changes needed to provide better services to our communities;
- \$13 million to support Councillors that lead the transition to a new council;
- \$5.3 million for new regional Joint Organisations;
- \$4 million innovation fund to assist small rural councils develop innovative ways of working;
- access to experts to develop a plan and implement change;
- the development of a new streamlined Local Government Act that aims to reduce red tape and regulation and places Integrated Planning and Reporting at the heart of council operations; and
- reviews of the regulatory burden on local government and the rating system.

Councils that become Fit for the Future will have access to a range of further initiatives supporting them to provide improved services and infrastructure to their communities, including:

- access to a State borrowing facility to fund local infrastructure, with potential savings to NSW councils of up to \$600 million in interest payments;
- more flexibility with procurement and simplified reporting; and
- access to a streamlined IPART process for setting rates.



**The Hon Paul Toole MP
Minister for Local Government**