

Tuesday 4 June 2013

City of Ryde residents say NO to amalgamation

Last night a crowd of 140 local residents braved the cold to attend a community workshop to voice their opinion on the State Government's proposed Council Amalgamation Report. The workshop is the first in a round of consultations to be conducted throughout the City of Ryde to gauge community responses to the proposed amalgamation.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Ivan Petch, said he was impressed with the turnout and the calibre of the comments made by the residents. "This is a challenging issue and it affects each and every one of us.

"We presented residents with the clear facts as outlined in the Report and their responses were also very clear as indicated by the results of the live survey conducted on the night."

Results of live survey:

- **78%** of those attending the workshop 'strongly disagreed' or 'disagreed' that amalgamation would result in greater efficiencies in the delivery of services for the City of Ryde.
- **92%** agreed that it is important to retain a sense of local identity within the City of Ryde.
- **87%** agreed that they were concerned about the potential impact of amalgamations on services in their local area.
- Overwhelmingly, **96%** agreed it was important that their local representatives are familiar with their area and its specific needs, **4%** somewhat agreed, and no participants disagreed with this.
- Only **5%** agreed that the City of Ryde will become more financially sustainable through amalgamation with Parramatta, Auburn and Holroyd Councils, and just **9%** agreed that amalgamations are likely to result in greater efficiencies in the delivery of services for the City of Ryde overall.
- On the question of how supportive participants were of City of Ryde being amalgamated with other nearby Councils more than **20%** said they would like more information in order to form a view, whilst only **22%** indicated any level of support for amalgamations.
- When presented with a few options, the proposal for City of Ryde to merge with Parramatta, Auburn and Holroyd Councils was the least preferred option with just **1%** of the vote. The most preferred option was to merge with Willoughby, Lane Cove, and Hunters Hill Councils (**47%**), followed by opposing amalgamations (**27%**). **12%** said they needed more information in order to form a view.

"Once the Council has completed the program of community engagement, which will include a telephone survey, online survey at the Ryde community website www.myplaceryde.com.au, a citywide letterbox drop and a Community Council meeting on 18 June, staff will analyse the data and include the results of the surveys as a key component of Ryde Council's response to the State Government," the Mayor said.

Submissions close on Friday 28 June 2013 and can be made:

Online www.localgovernmentreview.nsw.gov.au

Email info@localgovernmentreview.nsw.gov.au

Post Independent Local Government Review, c/o Locked Bag 3015, Nowra NSW 2541

For regular updates go to www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/amalgamation

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