

**MM-1 MAYORAL MINUTE - 'FIT FOR THE FUTURE' STATE
GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSAL FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT
REFORM IN NSW**

Department Executive Services

Author Initials: AT

REPORT

At the meeting held on 18 November 2014, Council considered a Mayoral Minute on the State Government's proposal for Local Government reform and resolved:

1. *THAT Council reiterates its position of remaining opposed to forced amalgamations.*
2. *THAT Council agrees to work collaboratively with Leichhardt, Marrickville, Ashfield, Burwood and Strathfield Councils and endorses the proposed MOU to enable a business case analysis of the various options and alternatives to be undertaken for further consideration by Council.*

Since that time I have been advised that Burwood, Leichhardt, Marrickville, Ashfield and Strathfield Councils have confirmed their position of 'no forced amalgamations', and agreed to collaborate via the MOU in:

- a) the development of research into the economic and social impacts on businesses and residents of any proposed amalgamation.
- b) the development of shared modelling (with all councils) based on the Government's criteria with additional analysis on advocacy, representation, good governance and social and environmental issues.
- c) an education and community engagement program.

As Councillors would be aware the templates released by the State Government on 31 October 2014 to assist councils in undertaking the self-assessment set the platform for councils to fail.

Further, the State Government has not provided any evidence based facts on the benefits or disbenefits that amalgamation of City of Canada Bay with Ashfield, Burwood, Leichhardt, Marrickville and Strathfield would deliver to our communities.

The purpose of the MOU is to support and facilitate a robust response to the State Government's Fit for the Future program and provide councils with reliable data on the likely outcomes of any voluntary or forced merger on their communities.

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT the City of Canada Bay remains opposed to any forced merger, proposed by the State Government through its Fit for the Future program.
2. THAT when completed a further report be submitted to Council advising the outcomes of the research and shared modelling study being undertaken.