

25 January 2004

Ms Edith Hall, Chair
NSW Government Boundaries Commission
Locked Bag 3020
NOWRA NSW 2541

Dear Madam,

Re:- Examination and Report on Proposal to Amalgamate the Local Government Area of The City of Sydney with the Area of City of South Sydney

We write to inform you, by way of submission to the Inquiry, that a meeting of representatives from the undersigned resident groups within the City of Sydney Local Government Area held on the 21st January 2004 did unanimously resolve as follows:-

1. That we oppose, at this stage, any alteration to the existing boundaries of the City of Sydney Local Government Area because:-
 - The boundary changes implemented in May 2003 are still 'bedding in'. Further change at this stage would disrupt the process of integrating the new areas into the City and thus place undue pressure on Council staff and resources, both already strained by the demand to repair years of neglect in the new areas.
2. That we oppose the full amalgamation of The City of Sydney and South Sydney City Local Government Areas because:-
 - It is contrary to the findings of the 2001 Sproats Inquiry
 - There is no community of interest between the southern portion of South Sydney LGA which contains large industrial areas and is undergoing large scale industrial to high density residential renewal
 - There are very few historical and traditional values shared between our dominantly residential heritage conservation areas and the new southern suburbs.
 - The financial viability of South Sydney Council is not in question. The City of Sydney Council has dropped its legal action to recover eight investment properties, from which the loss of income was the alleged reason to amalgamate.
 - Any amalgamation is now opposed by both Sydney City and South Sydney Councils. The NSW Government has repeatedly promised that there will be no forced amalgamations.
 - There is no detected opinion in our membership favouring the proposed amalgamation. There is a fear, especially in the areas added to the City in May 2003, that these areas would once again be neglected and financially plundered by the southern wards of a merged super local government area.
 - The present inquiry has allowed insufficient time to inform and seek the views of electors, especially so because it has been conducted almost wholly over the Christmas holiday period.

3. That the desirability of extending the boundaries, perhaps to the pre 1983 boundaries or as recommended in the 2001 Sproats Inquiry should be re-examined in 2 or 3 years time, after the areas added in May 2003 have been fully integrated and major projects like the Cross City Tunnel, the Darlinghurst Road Upgrade and the Broadway, Oxford Street and William Street Gateways Projects have been completed by the City of Sydney.

We are opposed to the amalgamation of the City of Sydney and South Sydney City Local Government Areas for reasons stated above. There are no apparent benefits to the residents and electors of the City of Sydney, only the probability that they would be disadvantaged significantly.

We urge you to recommend to the Minister for Local Government against the proposed amalgamation.

Should the government persist with the proposal, it will appear to be motivated by party political advantage rather than the welfare of the people affected.

Sincerely

Gundo Frenda
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On behalf of:-
RESNET Residents Network
The Darlinghurst Resident Action Group
The East Sydney Neighbourhood Association
The Glebe Society
The 2011 Residents Association
The Millers Point Resident Action Group
The Pyrmont Community Group
The Ultimo Precinct Community Group
Sydneyiders Against Polluting Stacks

Cc The Hon Tony Kelly, Minister for Local Government