

THE MAIN REASONS WHY PITTWATER COUNCIL SHOULD REMAIN AS IS:

i.e. ON ITS CURRENT BOUNDARIES AND WITH NO AMALGAMATION

Historical Perspective

Pittwater seceded from Warringah in 1992 because of poor service, a significant backlog in infrastructure, inappropriate developments and their associated impact on the environment. Pittwater was the first local council to be formed by secession in 100 years. **Approximately 65%** of Pittwater residents surveyed to date want the Status Quo i.e. no merger and no regression to the past.

Pittwater Council is **STRONG**

- Council has been certified “FIT for the Future” by KPMG based on **all** the NSW Government criteria.
- Merging will not materially improve the financial position.
- SHOROC (or similar structure) can capitalise on any economies of scale in the region.
- NSW Treasury (T-Corp) places Pittwater in the Top 10 Metropolitan Councils for current and future financial sustainability.

Pittwater Council is **INDEPENDENT**

- Councillors are not affiliated to political parties or obvious developer or other vested interests.
- Development is based on a network of town and village centres – NOT High Rise.
- All councillors voted for the Status Quo at the 7th April 2015 Council meeting.

Pittwater Council is **LOCAL**

- It connects well with its community and is very reactive to LOCAL issues.
- It understands these local issues and comes up with tailored solutions.
- It has important specific issues e.g. Historical infrastructure backlog, poor public transport and the future of Mona Vale Hospital.
- Councillor representation is very good. Approximately 6,900 residents per councillor
- Pittwater has 25% of the Sydney Coastline, nine ocean beaches, and large parts of the Ku-Ring-Gai Chase National Park. Since secession it has added 140 hectares of environmentally significant open space.
- Would you hand over custodianship of our pristine and precious environment and our way of life to anyone other than Pittwater Council?

MEGA COUNCILS don't work

- International research and domestic experience tell us that councils between 40K and 100K residents are the most efficient and effective.
- Pittwater Council has an ideal size at 62K residents
- Two independent reports by the eminent local government specialist Prof Brian Dollery found a merger of the three Northern Beaches Councils would not improve financial sustainability, and
- There was no evidence to support a strong joint “community of interest” across Manly, Warringah and Pittwater, an essential prerequisite for any successful merger. Indeed there is strong evidence to support a unique “Peninsula Living Lifestyle” for Pittwater residents.

Merging Councils is costly and highly disruptive

- Merging councils is an expensive messy business: putting in place new IT systems, work practices, new offices and changed cultures is time consuming, soul destroying and non-productive.
- Merging Councils is full of economic, social and political RISK. E.g. QLD, VIC, NZ.
- The forecast costs of merging are usually always underestimated – by a very large amount.

IF it isn't broken don't try to fix it or wreck it

- Approximately 65% of Pittwater residents surveyed to date want the Status Quo i.e. no merger.
- Pittwater is not alone. Many Sydney Metropolitan Councils think the same way.
Ref: <http://keepitlocal.net.au/#who>