

CABPRA

The Clareville and Bilgola Plateau Residents Association

P O Box 292 Avalon Beach 2107

Why should Pittwater Council remain as it is on its current boundaries?

- Pittwater Council is financially STRONG.
- Pittwater Council is INDEPENDENT.
- Pittwater Council is LOCAL.
- MEGA COUNCILS don't work.
- Merging councils is COSTLY and DISRUPTIVE.
- IF it isn't broken, don't try to fix it or wreck it.

CABPRA's POSITION IS THAT PITTWATER COUNCIL MUST REMAIN INDEPENDENT AND CONTINUE ON ITS PRESENT BOUNDARIES.

Why are we writing to you?

The state government is seeking to reduce the number of rural and metropolitan councils in NSW. The government appointed an Independent Local Government Regional Panel which, despite much strong opposition from residents on the northern beaches, recommended the amalgamation of the three coastal councils.

All NSW councils have subsequently been required to consult with their communities and their neighbouring councils on the issue of amalgamation.

Councils have also been required to complete a process called *Fit For The Future* whereby they have to demonstrate their ongoing financial viability and their capacity to provide effective and efficient services into the future.

Pittwater Council has engaged external consultants who were able to clearly demonstrate its fitness for the future.

Councils have also been required to report on their fitness and their community consultations to the State Government by 30 June this year, after which date bureaucrats will make recommendations to the government about amalgamations across the state.

What is Pittwater Council's position on the proposed amalgamation of the three northern beaches councils?

Our council has made its position very clear, in motions adopted unanimously on 6 May 2013, 13 October 2014 and as recently as 7 April, that it is totally opposed to any amalgamation with neighbouring councils.

What is CABPRA's position on the proposed amalgamation?

As one of the leading community organisations in the struggle for the formation of an independent council for the northern peninsula, CABPRA, along with many other organisations and residents, was ultimately successful in the formation of Pittwater Council in 1992.

There were many reasons for this long-fought campaign:

- a disproportionately small portion of rates collected in the northern peninsula was being spent here, leading to a significant backlog in infrastructure and community facilities;
- in seeking to represent and promote this area, our northern councillors in the former council were continually being outvoted by other councillors;
- inappropriate developments were being approved, culminating in community outrage at the approval of the multi-storey Delmege building in Mona Vale; and
- many people thought that they were receiving very poor service from a large and remote council with a swollen bureaucracy.

There were several other reasons for the struggle for independence which will be well-known to longer-term residents. The prospect of a return to such a regime is a cause of great concern.

It is possible that those who have since come to live in this most beautiful part of Sydney may not be aware of the many difficulties and frustrations suffered by those living here at the time. An account of the secession struggle entitled *Pittwater Uprising!* is available from Avalon and Mona Vale libraries.

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How can we inform ourselves of the issues in this most important matter?

- **Attend** the community consultation meeting being held by Council at Pittwater RSL Club on **Tuesday 19th May** from 6.30pm to 8.30pm.
- **Read** and act on the package of material which will be sent by Council to every household.
- **Contact** one or more of our local north ward councillors to ask about the proposed amalgamations or to state our views to our councillors: Bob Grace 0416 222 103; Selena Griffith 0481 000 369; Alex McTaggart 0411 779 585.
- **Visit** Council's website www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au
- **Visit** CABPRA's website <https://cabpra.wordpress.com>
- **Contact** CABPRA on 0400 635 607

In summary:

Pittwater was the first local Council to be formed by secession in a hundred years.

Pittwater Council has been very successful in representing and engaging its community.

Our council is built on the values of environmentalism, sustainability, balanced development, effective two-way communication, and respect for residents.

CABPRA believes that local councils must be **local** and that they serve their communities more effectively than do more distant mega-councils.

Pittwater Council has demonstrated its ongoing financial viability and its fitness for the future. Its success should be celebrated, not punished by being forcibly amalgamated with parts or all of other northern beaches councils.

The Clareville and Bilgola Plateau Residents Association (CABPRA) is your local community organisation which has campaigned for the amenity of our area since the late 1970s. We seek to represent the interests of residents from Stokes Point to Refuge Cove and parts of Bilgola Plateau.