



Pittwater hasn't escaped amalgamation yet

21 Oct 2015

Pittwater Deputy Mayor Kylie Ferguson has expressed her utmost disappointment with the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) report that ruled Pittwater as being one of Sydney's councils that has been declared 'unfit'.

IPART released its report yesterday that deemed Pittwater does not meet the Fit for the Future scale and capacity criteria due to its population size. Council did however meet every other financial criterion incorporating sustainability, infrastructure and efficiency measures.

"Our community has spoken time and time again—they don't want Pittwater to be amalgamated," Cr Ferguson said.

"The State Government says they have given us 30 days to 'reconsider the benefits of merging' and have offered cash benefits. These include up to \$25 million for the combined Council's that include \$10 million to cover the costs of a merger. \$15 million would come from the newly announced Stronger Communities fund to provide funding for community infrastructure projects. However, amalgamation may come at great cost and our community has to date rejected amalgamations.

"The Council will need to consider a report and its options for the way forward.

"Now that IPART has delivered its recommendation to State Government, it's time for our community to have one last say before the government determines our fate.

"Council's preference is to stand alone, remain committed to a strong, independent Pittwater Council providing local representation and delivery of local services to the people of Pittwater on the existing boundaries. Council also remains opposed to forced amalgamations.

"Results from independent research and Pittwater Council's community engagement have consistently demonstrated overwhelming support for the status quo.

"Pittwater's independence remains front and centre in our community with a whopping 89 per cent supporting us to stand alone" she added.

To stay informed, please visit www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/reform

Contact: Media contact: Community relations

Phone: 9970 1119