



**PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE**

PO BOX 85, HUNTERS HILL, NSW 2110

[www.huntershilltrust.org.au](http://www.huntershilltrust.org.au)

Council Boundary Review  
GPO Box 5341  
Sydney NSW 2001

## **SUBMISSION TO COUNCIL BOUNDARY REVIEW**

### **PROPOSED AMALGAMATION OF HUNTERS HILL, RYDE AND LANE COVE LGAs**

#### **Background to The Hunters Hill Trust**

The Hunters Hill Trust was formed in 1968 at time when the municipality's built heritage was being demolished for three storey walk-up unit blocks and a freeway had been ploughed through its centre. The Trust was formed by a group of concerned locals *"at a time when the climate was ripe for residents' protests against the bureaucratic indifference of the Council and the threat to the unique character of this suburb"* (The Vision and the Struggle page 4).

The Trust has had considerable success in the fight and is responsible for the introduction of the extensive heritage listings of buildings, walls and bushland in the Hunters Hill LGA and the creation of, for the first time in Australia, a Conservation Advisory Panel.

#### **Amalgamation of Hunters Hill, Ryde and Lane Cove**

Hunters Hill, Ryde and Lane Cove have opposed their proposed amalgamation and have submitted a proposal for a Joint Regional Authority (JRA), which has been rejected by the State Government. The Government appears to have taken the JRA proposal as a tacit agreement that these three councils can work together as an amalgamated entity and have consequently proposed that the three be amalgamated.

Whatever the merits of this particular grouping, it would seem that the State Government is firmly committed to press on with council amalgamations across the state. If the State Government succeeds in its plan for a merged LGA, the Trust will continue to fight for the preservation of the existing character and heritage of Hunters Hill Municipality to ensure that it is safeguarded for future generations and that the existing level of services provided by Hunters Hill Council are preserved and enhanced.

Whilst the Trust is not advancing the case for amalgamation, in the event that this were to occur and given the Trust's Aim in maintaining the unique and historical character of Hunters Hill, we believe that any future merged Council should include the following:

#### **General aims**

- Integration of Development across key centres (for example, in the Hunters Hill and Ryde areas this relates to the Gladesville Town Centre and Boronia Park shopping centre)
- Integrated management of catchment areas across geophysical boundaries rather than arbitrary council boundaries
- Implementation of the Green Grid to link parklands and recreational areas with pedestrian friendly access
- Encouragement of sustainable transport connections and the promotion of active living

- Improved access to public transport and Improved pedestrian connectivity
- Improved access to open space
- Improved traffic management
- Foster and encourage diverse and resilient communities and activate the public realm
- Strive to improve the overall environmental, social and cultural living standards generally

#### **The preservation of the character of Hunters Hill in a merged LGA**

- The retention of Hunters Hill's existing planning controls, conservation areas and heritage listings and in particular:
  - The retention of existing lot sizes on waterfront land, the foreshore protection line and the garden area controls, which are specific to Hunters Hill
- The identification of specific areas within the merged LGA, and the establishment of additional provisions to be applied to these areas. This would ensure recognition of the diverse nature of the new council area and the need to be flexible in preserving its existing character.
- The creation of individual Wards, so that specific local identities within the merged LGA are recognised and represented.
- The appointment of 15 councillors, which is the maximum number allowed.
- The continuation of some form of design review panel, similar to Hunters Hill's Conservation Advisory Panel, which would advise the merged council on matters of heritage and conservation.
- The employment of a permanent staff heritage officer
- The retention of council owned buildings in public ownership and the increased use of publicly owned community facilities, for example
  - Retaining a Gladesville branch library
  - Developing The Priory as a public community centre
  - The creation of Neighbourhood Service Centres, as in the City of Sydney

#### **The potential for the improvement of existing services and programs**

- Better care and maintenance of roads, parks and bushland.
- Retention of the festivals and events currently run by HHC
- A more committed sustainability program
- An improved website which would include webcasts of council meetings and an improved DA tracking service

Tony Coote  
**President of The Hunters Hill Trust**