

Swimming Pools 2015 Review
Office of Local Government

By e-mail: olg@olg.nsw.gov.au

27 October 2015

Dear Sirs

REINSW SUBMISSION IN RESPONSE TO THE DISCUSSION PAPER – INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF SWIMMING POOL BARRIER REQUIREMENTS FOR BACKYARD SWIMMING POOLS IN NSW

We refer to the submission prepared by The Real Estate Institute of New South Wales (**REINSW**) dated 19 October 2015 in response to the Discussion Paper on the independent review of swimming pool barrier requirements for backyard swimming pools in New South Wales (**Submission**).

Subsequent to lodging the Submission, an article came to our attention which supports REINSW's concern that councils do not have sufficient resources available to implement the changes to the *Swimming Pools Act 1992* (NSW) with respect to compliance.

We **enclose** the article from 9NEWS dated 20 September 2015 which discusses the "Fit For The Future" report prepared by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (**Report**).

According to the Report:

- (a) 71% of Sydney metropolitan councils and 56% of regional councils are not fit to continue operating in their existing capacities; and
- (b) local government in NSW is "broken" and amalgamating different councils would result in approximately \$2 billion savings over 20 years.

The article also outlines which councils are fit and unfit across NSW.

REINSW is concerned that 71% of Sydney metropolitan councils and 56% of regional councils do not have sufficient resources available to carry out their current role, let alone their additional requirements associated with swimming pool compliance. It is proposed that the amalgamation of different councils may present a solution to the problem, however, such council restructures are unlikely to take place before 29 April 2016 when swimming pools must be compliant.

REINSW would like the Government to take these facts into account whilst considering its Submission and is more than happy to discuss further should the need arise.

Yours faithfully



Tim McKibbin
Chief Executive Officer
The Real Estate Institute of New South Wales

71 percent of Sydney councils 'not fit' for future operation: report



9NEWS

September 20, 2015: A damning report from an independent regulator is likely to force many of NSW's councils into mergers.

Local government in NSW is "broken" and amalgamating many councils, including the state's largest Local Government Area the City of Sydney, would save about \$2 billion over 20 years - according to a new report.

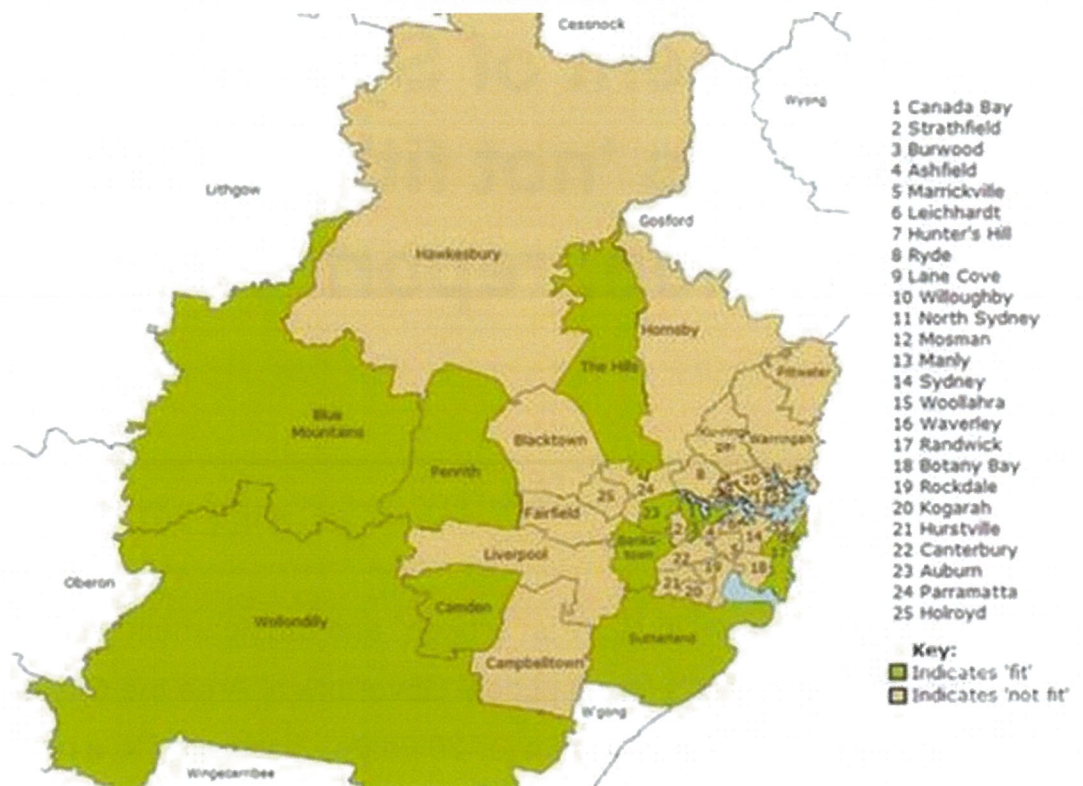
Compiled by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART), the "Fit For The Future" report said 71 percent of Sydney metropolitan councils and 56 percent of regional councils are not fit to continue operating in their existing capacities.

The findings were partly based on proposals submitted by councils which outlined future plans including financial stability, scale and capacity.

Only Bankstown, in Sydney's south west, was deemed a "fit" council within the pool of all inner metropolitan Sydney councils.

Sutherland Shire, The Hills Shire and Blue Mountains City all received glowing reviews, with Campbelltown City Council and Willoughby City Council on the "not fit" list.

Controversially The City of Sydney was also deemed unfit.



The report claimed 71 percent of Sydney metropolitan councils - including the City of Sydney - were not 'fit'. (IPART)

"Mergers deliver significant benefits to participating councils, including improving a council's scale and capacity, and financial outlook," the report states.

The report was presented by Premier Mike Baird and Local Government Minister, Paul Toole.

The findings are expected to be received with hostility and disagreement by Sydney councils.

A statement from the Lord Mayor of Sydney, Clover Moore, said the report bared no "community support or evidence" to declare the City of Sydney unfit.

"The impact of a forced amalgamation now would risk our 10-year, \$1.94 billion infrastructure program as well as \$30-40 worth of private development over the next decade.

"To say the City of Sydney is somehow unfit in the face of this strong evidence to the contrary makes a mockery of the entire review process, and throws into question all decisions made as a result."

'Fit' Metro Councils:

- Auburn, Burwood and City of Canada Bay (merger proposal)
- Bankstown
- Blue Mountains City
- Camden
- Penrith City Council
- Randwick and Waverly (merger proposal)
- Sutherland Shire
- The Hills Shire
- Wollondilly Shire

'Not Fit' Metro Councils:

- Ashfield City Council
- Blacktown City Council
- Botany Bay Council

- Campbelltown City Council
- Canterbury City Council
- Fairfield City Council
- Hawkesbury City Council
- Holroyd City Council
- Hornsby Shire Council
- Hunter's Hill Council
- Hurstville City Council
- Kogarah City Council
- Ku-ring-gai Council
- Lane Cove Council
- Leichhardt Municipal Council
- Liverpool City Council
- Manly Council
- Marrickville Council
- Mosman Municipal Council
- North Sydney Council
- Parramatta City Council

- Pittwater Council
- Rockdale City Council
- Ryde City Council
- Strathfield Municipal Council
- Sydney City Council (as a Global City)
- Warringah Council
- Willoughby City Council
- Woollahra Municipal Council

'Fit' Regional Councils:

- Albury City Council
- Ballina Shire Council
- Bathurst Regional Council
- Bega Valley Shire Council
- Bogan Shire Council*
- Byron Shire Council
- Carrathool Shire Council*
- Cessnock City Council
- Coffs Harbour City Council

- Coolamon Shire Council*
- Coonamble Shire Council*
- Cootamundra Shire and
- Harden Shire (merger proposal)
- Cowra Shire Council
- Dubbo City Council
- Eurobodalla Shire Council
- Gilgandra Shire Council*
- Glen Innes Severn Shire Council
- Great Lakes Shire Council
- Greater Hume Shire Council
- Gunnedah Shire Council
- Inverell Shire Council
- Leeton Shire Council
- Lismore City Council
- Lockhart Shire Council*
- Moree Plains Shire Council
- Muswellbrook Shire Council

- Nambucca Shire Council
- Narrabri Shire Council
- Parkes Shire Council
- Port Macquarie-Hastings Council
- Port Stephens Council
- Richmond Valley Council
- Shoalhaven City Council
- Singleton Council
- Tamworth Regional Council
- Tumbarumba Shire Council*
- Upper Hunter Shire Council
- Wagga Wagga City Council
- Wakool Shire Council*
- Warren Shire Council*
- Wingecarribee Shire Council
- Wollongong City Council
- Young Shire Council and
- Boorowa Council (merger proposal)

'Not Fit' Regional Councils:

- Armidale Dumaresq Council
- Bellingen Shire Council
- Berrigan Shire Council
- Bland Shire Council
- Blayney Shire Council
- Bombala Shire Council*
- Cabonne Council
- Clarence Valley Council
- Conargo Shire Council*
- Cooma-Monaro Shire Council
- Corowa Shire Council
- Deniliquin Shire Council
- Dungog Shire Council
- Forbes Shire Council
- Gloucester Shire Council
- Gosford City Council
- Goulburn Mulwaree Council

- Greater Taree City Council
- Griffith City Council
- Gundagai Shire Council*
- Guyra Shire Council*
- Gwydir Shire Council
- Hay Shire Council*
- Jerilderie Shire Council*
- Junee Shire Council
- Kempsey Shire Council
- Kiama Municipal Council
- Kyogle Council
- Lachlan Shire Council
- Lake Macquarie City Council
- Lithgow City Council
- Liverpool Plains Shire Council*
- Maitland City Council
- Mid-Western Regional Council
- Murray Shire Council

- Murrumbidgee Shire Council*
- Narrandera Shire Council
- Narromine Shire Council
- Newcastle City Council
- Oberon Council
- Orange City Council
- Palerang Council
- Queanbeyan City Council
- Shellharbour City Council
- Snowy River Shire Council
- Temora Shire Council
- Tenterfield Shire Council
- Tumut Shire Council
- Tweed Shire Council
- Upper Lachlan Shire Council
- Uralla Shire Council
- Urana Shire Council*
- Walcha Shire Council*

- Warrumbungle Shire Council

- Weddin Shire Council*

- Wellington Council

- Yass Valley Council

- Wyong City

****Denotes regional council proposal.***

