

**That:**

- a) Randwick City Council believes that it is Fit for the Future as evidenced by the following :
- Council is financially strong, meeting all the Fit for the Future financial, asset and efficiency benchmarks now and into the future with the exception of the debt service ratio benchmark due to Council's debt free position
  - Council has quality political and managerial leadership, with a proven track record of engagement, sound decision making and delivering for the community whilst being a capable partner for State and Federal agencies
  - The Randwick City community has broadly indicated that they would prefer Council to remain as a stand-alone entity, rather than merge with other Councils.
- b) Randwick City Council acknowledges that based on the proposed IPART methodology for assessing Fit For The Future submissions it cannot meet the requirement for standing alone which is to demonstrate superior scale and capacity when compared to the Independent Local Government Review Panel's recommendation of the merger of Randwick City with City of Sydney, Woollahra, Waverley and Botany Bay (Global City).
- c) Randwick City Council and its community is strongly opposed to the Global City merger proposal and Council understands that the Global City merger proposal is the default position if it does not make an alternate merger submission that is broadly consistent with the recommendations of the Independent Local Government Review Panel

- d) That Council submits a Council Merger Proposal (Template 1), in accordance with the Fit for the Future guidance material, proposing a merger of Randwick City with Waverley and Botany Bay Councils
- e) That Council writes to its proposed merger partners:
- advising of Council's resolution;
  - encouraging them to consider an identical resolution; and
  - offering to submit the Council Merger Proposal on behalf of the merger group
- f) The Fit for the Future guidance material clearly states that a Council Merger Proposal must be endorsed by all Councils in the proposed group. Therefore, Council recognises the importance of establishing, as a base case, a merger of Randwick City with Waverley (subject to their agreement) for the following reasons:
- Botany Bay Council have publicly expressed opposition to any amalgamation proposal on numerous occasions whilst Waverley's position is similar to Randwick's in that they would prefer to stand alone and are strongly opposed and would be disadvantaged by being part of the Global City model and have therefore worked collaboratively with Council.
  - Randwick City and Waverley contain the two largest populations of the Eastern Suburbs Councils and can achieve an appropriate minimum population to demonstrate scale and capacity
  - Council's community consultation indicated a Randwick/Waverley merger as being the most favoured of the five alternate merger options to the Global City

Therefore, in the event that unanimous agreement cannot be obtained from the proposed merger partners, in accordance with the Fit for the Future guidance material, Council will submit a Council Merger Proposal (Template 1) proposing a merger of Randwick and Waverley (subject to their agreement) as a base case. This proposal may also include Botany Bay subject to agreement of the base case merger partners. This proposal would include, within the 'Scale and Capacity' section, Randwick City Council's position that a merger of Randwick City with Waverley and Botany Bay Councils is considered the optimal outcome.

- g) A pre-condition of any merger is that the merger partners agree to accept the enhanced employment protections of 5 years contained within the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Randwick City Council and the Unions
- h) The General Manager be given delegated authority to sign the MOU with the Unions and finalise the Fit for the Future submission, based on the due diligence undertaken in the development of the Options Analysis documentation, and submit it prior to the 30 June 2015 deadline.
- i) In the event of a merger, Randwick City Council's position is that the voting system should be proportional representation
- j) That the General Manager bring a report to the July 2015 Council meeting regarding items for the Local Transition Committee including; number of Councillors, ward structures, the preservation of the history of Randwick City, centre of Government, and membership of the Local Transition Committee
- k) Council write to the NSW Office of Local Government requesting that the membership of the proposed Local

Transition Committee to be established to transition the merger partner Councils to the new amalgamated Council be changed from the Mayor, one other Councillor and the General Manager of each merger partner Council, to the Mayor, two other Councillors and the General Manager of each merger partner Council

l) Randwick City Council acknowledges that due to:

- The timing of the receipt of the proposed assessment methodology from IPART; and
- NSW Electoral Commission's refusal to provide Council with copies of the electoral roll

Council is no longer able to conduct a plebiscite of its residents as previously intended. As such, in accordance with the views of individual Councillors, Council requests the government permit a binding referendum on this issue prior to any merger being implemented and to request the NSW Electoral Commission to release the electoral rolls to Randwick City, Botany Bay, Waverley, Woollahra and City of Sydney Councils to enable this to occur.