



MAYOR'S ROOM,
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
STRATHFIELD, 2135

MAYORAL MINUTE No. 34/13

PREMIER STATES THAT BENEFITS OF AMALGAMATING "COMMUNITIES LIKE STRATHFIELD" UNCLEAR

RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes State Premier Barry O'Farrell's comments regarding amalgamation and the reports released by the Independent Local Government Review Panel.

Last month's *Strathfield Scene* reported the pleasing news that State Premier Barry O'Farrell 'virtually ruled out' Strathfield as an amalgamation target.

Mr O'Farrell was quoted as saying "I don't think it's clear in the (Independent Local Government Review Panel) report to date what the benefits are for communities like Strathfield if they are amalgamated".

Mr O'Farrell also said: "My criticism of the reports released to date is that instead of setting out the case, whether specifically or city-wide, of the benefit of amalgamations, they drew lines on maps".

While the State Government has always maintained that it would honour its pre-election commitment of 'no forced amalgamations', it is the first time that anyone from the State Government has spoken out against the reports from the Independent Local Government Review Panel.

It seems the State Government is finally acknowledging the flaws in the argument for Local Government reform, and Mr O'Farrell's comments are cause for optimism that the threat of amalgamation is reducing.

However, we still need to remain vigilant – the Independent Local Government Review Panel's final report is yet to be released, and until such time, we are still unaware of the full recommendations that will be made.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Bott', written over a horizontal line.

CR DANIEL BOTT
MAYOR
3 DECEMBER 2013