

The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian  
Treasurer  
NSW Government

Dear Minister,

I email directly to yourself as Treasurer in the NSW Government and therefore next to the Premier the most economically responsible minister.

Unfortunately Chamber has misread the time/date for closure of submissions this afternoon. However our views would no doubt get a better hearing from you in your capacity as NSW Treasurer.

Because our HQ has been in Sydney for almost 40 years we have promoted Sydney and Australia across China, border to border re [www.accci.com.au](http://www.accci.com.au) We believe that ACCCI has a fairly unique experience and perspective.

Background:

On Tuesday 2nd February 2016 at the evening session of the State Government Inquiry sponsored Public Meeting held at Rydges Hotel, McLaren Street, North Sydney, I spoke as both a private land owner/resident of North Sydney and President of ACCCI.

At the end of 2005 Chamber transferred its International Head Office from Pitt Street, CBD, to West Street, North Sydney - the premise was purchased by me and provided free of charge to ACCCI, as a non-government, non-profit, voluntary association of companies involved in Australia China Economic Relations. In 2013 the HQ was shifted to Berry Street, North Sydney under the same arrangement. Chamber has found it easier to host international visitors from the Sydney International Airport to North Sydney then the CBD.

Prior to 2013 for 30 years I owned a five acre property at Belrose from where I regularly frequented Chatswood and the CBD. I now own seven properties in North Sydney. Thus the future governance of the District and Global Sydney are of major concern for me both individually and for my international organisation. You can visit the ACCCI website at [www.accci.com.au](http://www.accci.com.au) where you will find a great deal of material on Cities in China and Australia as well as comments by myself in the Media section on North Sydney Council.

Proposition:

At the Public Meeting I made the point that the amalgamation of councils proposition was in great danger of losing momentum due to both poor advocacy and the rising tide of resident anger particularly in North Sydney, Mosman and Warringah on the Northside of the harbour. Moreover that if North Sydney was to be forcibly amalgamated it should be with Central Sydney re CBD and not Willoughby Council - after all North Sydney has always been Sydney re Sydney Harbour and helped build the Sydney Harbour Bridge from July 1923. The Prime Minister's Sydney Residence is in North Sydney as is the Governor General's re Kirribilli House and Admiralty House. North Sydney is urban not suburban and has a completely different gravitas to Willoughby.

Given the Warringah Council discovery of Section 218E of the Local Government Act, it may well be that a Northern Beaches Council emerges as an amalgamation of Manly, Warringah and Pittwater. That might mean a merger of Mosman with North Sydney rather than Manly, and hence a rethink of the proposed merger of North Sydney Council with Willoughby Council.

A curve ball in thinking on Sydney whether CBD, Metropolitan, Greater Sydney - Inner and Outer, is its global economic dimension. Why not split both North Sydney and City of Sydney in accordance with the Greater Sydney Commission perspective of the Central Sydney subregion. North Sydney to the north of Crows Nest re Falcon Street to be amalgamated with Willoughby, and Lower North Sydney together with Mosman in the City of Sydney/CBD. Botany Bay Council could then extend its boundaries to include parts of Randwick and southern City of Sydney?

I note in the document of December 2014 "The new metropolitan strategy - A Plan for Growing Sydney" that Central Sydney subregional planning includes North Sydney re diagrams at least on pages 21/27/45/47/57/73/109. Indeed on pp110 it is stated explicitly: "Global Sydney includes Sydney CBD, North Sydney CBD, ....." etc and that the objective is to "Work with the City of Sydney and North Sydney Council ....."

Much better to harmonise the economic and the political, where socially and culturally consistent in population aspirations. There is a logical imperative for the Greater CBD to include the most significant parts of North Sydney and City of Sydney, both commercially and residentially. This would provide a foundation for a truly global city for its residents, companies and tourists.

Sydney since the Second World War should have been more than a political plaything for NSW State politicians to enlarge and contract according to electoral advantage and whim. It ought to have an aspiration to be a City of Learning if not an urban economic global power center. That achievement depends as much on federal legislation as state, but the amalgamation of the anachronistic over 40 Sydney Councils is a start provided the thinking is in the national interest.

This Greater CBD of Sydney, within the broader Metropolitan Sydney, and Greater Sydney including the Parramatta CBD, could without question be the foci not only for Australia but for Australasia, particularly Auckland in New Zealand.

Lucy Turnbull's Greater Sydney Commission may be the vehicle for this quality of thinking?

Michael C H Jones  
President - ACCCI