

Jilly Gibson
Lord Mayor
North Sydney Council

Dear Jilly,

Just a very late and quick congratulations to you for the very important and courageous initiative in visiting/confronting Sydney CBD Lord Mayor Clover Moore on the question of Sydney's "Fit for the Future" possible council amalgamations, as reported on the front page of the Mosman Daily re Thursday June 4th 2015.

For those of us with decades of international business and political experience it has been nauseous to witness Sydney CBD Lord Mayors whether Frank Sartor or Clover Moore sit down with genuine mayors of major global cities of multi-millions at international fora. They do not represent Metropolitan Sydney let alone Greater Sydney. The Mayors of North Sydney and/or Parramatta as examples have as much right to represent Sydney as Clover Moore, or any future CBD mayors.

The discussion of the Fit for the Future possible amalgamations has so far concentrated on the micro, dare I say the minutia of everyday council affairs as important as they are for citizens. But there is a macro issue/challenge of Sydney as the economic and financial engine room of the country and how New South Wales and Australia manages that relationship with the great urban power houses of the globe. There needs to be a genuine Lord Mayor of at least Metropolitan Sydney if not Greater Sydney with the authorities and powers to match London and New York, Shanghai, Hong Kong and Singapore etc

Your visit has raised the debate from the very parochial North Sydney "stands alone" (unfortunately the yearnings of about 150 over 70s), amalgamations with neighbouring councils like Mosman and Lane Cove (favoured by some politicians and many real estate people) or the North Shore ROC (what on earth does North Sydney have in common with Hornsby Council).

As Chamber has as advocated since the mid 1990s and discussed from our foundation in 1976, Sydney is both sides of the harbour and at the very least as far as Greater Parramatta re Macquarie Park, Carlingford, Sydney Olympic Park and Strathfield. The concept should be on the agenda if ultimately rejected for sound economic and social reasons.

North Sydney is according to it's name: SYDNEY. Yet it's CBD is still an embarrassment for international visitors - what a bad look when Willoughby has Vivid and not North Sydney despite the best efforts of the local Chamber of Commerce.

District Governance is a pillar of Australian Governance and should not be the plaything of State/NSW government, nor the various factions of both the Sydney CBD and North Sydney Councils. It is vital for Australia that we get it right.

Michael C H Jones
President - ACCCI

PS. There are a multitude of articles and comments on our website re www.accci.com.au concerning issues of governance including Sydney.

PPS As per usual this email will go onto the ACCCI website, with the Mosman Daily article, you are welcome to reply.