

PHILIP CHARLES WALKER GIPA ACCESS APPLICATION 28 MARCH 2018

REQUEST FOR KPMG DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION ON COUNCIL MERGERS

To the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet (also described as 'the Department'):

The Applicant seeks access to the following KPMG reports, draft reports, documents and information in relation to proposed mergers of NSW local councils between 1 January 2015 and 31 March 2016:

1. KPMG Draft Business Case. This document is identified in a Strategy Schedule Attachment to an email from Janis Tebecis from KPMG dated 22 September 2015 12:10pm to Cassandra Gercken in the Department. In the Strategy Schedule is a section called 'Business Case development' and item 16 reveals a KPMG document called 'Draft business case' due to be finished 21 September 2015. This document is revealed in the affidavit of Karen Smith dated 17 November 2017, as filed in the review case between this Applicant and the Department before the NCAT Tribunal in Administrative Review List 2017/226200.
2. KPMG 'Source: KPMG analysis'. This is a source reference in a publicly released document prepared by KPMG for the Department called 'Local Government Reform Merger impacts and analysis December 2015' (also called 'KPMG short form report Dec). It was released on a Government website on or before 6 January 2016. The source reference relates to information and final figures appearing on p5 and p6 (re Tables 2 and 3). The source material referred to should be known by the Taskforce within the Department that was involved with KPMG in preparation of this public report.
3. KPMG Business Case. This document has been identified by the Department in the decision for access by Matt Richards dated 7 June 2017 (Annexure 'B' Record number 21) involving this Applicant and the Department, which is under review before the NCAT Tribunal in Administrative Review List 2017/226200.
4. KPMG ICT Options Paper. This document is identified in the same way as in paragraph 1 above, except that it appears as item 13 and 16. In 13 it is identified as a KPMG document 'ICT Options Paper' to be finished 21 September 2015, and also in 16 as being due with the draft business case for 21 September 2015.
5. KPMG proprietary model, and KPMG spreadsheets and formulas used to model assumptions against inputs. These are identified as being relevant to the 35 Merger Proposals publicly released 6 January 2016. It is said that these KPMG documents exist, but it is stated by Matt Richards in his decision for access (dated 7 June 2017 p3 para c) that he has been advised that these are held by KPMG and not the Department. (That decision relates to the review application outlined in paragraph 3 above).
6. KPMG Merger analysis/impacts/modelling September 2015 to January 2016 inclusive, for each and all of the 35 proposed mergers.
7. KPMG Report Northern Beaches April 2015. This report was prepared for Pittwater and Manly Councils and is relevant in relation to merger options.