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Parliament House
Macquarie St
Sydney NSW 2000

Premier
The Hon. Mike Baird MP
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

By email: office@premier.nsw.gov.au

17 November 2015

Dear Premier,

RE: Request for IPART to release scale and capacity analysis for each council

IPART has advised my office to write to you to formalise this request for the release of the following information:

"All documents evidencing the scale and capacity assessments of NSW Councils in Tribunal's 'Fit for the Future' assessment of local councils. This includes all and/or any comprehensive any "comprehensive and in-depth analysis" of each councils scale and capacity."

I refer to the enclosed email correspondence whereby IPART have refused to deal with my office's request for the informal release of this information.

I note there is an overriding, and urgent, public interest in the release of the material due to the following:

- There is enormous community disquiet concerning the manner in which IPART has assessed over half of all NSW councils as "not fit"
- In Sydney, despite IPART finding 93% of councils financially sustainable, almost three quarters were ultimately found "not fit" based on IPART's assessment of their "scale and capacity"
- Residents and councils deserve to know the basis on which local councils have been found unfit by IPART, and
- IPART's assessment as to "fitness" is basis for political decisions by the NSW Government to attempt to force council mergers across NSW.

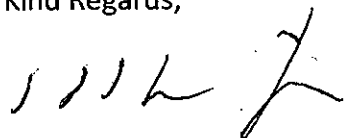
Given IPART did not provide a draft report to any council to allow council's procedural fairness before drawing its final conclusion, clearly access to the detailed assessment now is essential for some transparency on this issue.

This information seems essential for councils to be able to make a considered response to IPART's report and well before your government formalises any response to councils under the 'Fit for the Future' program.

I would ask that you make a commitment that no action will be taken by the government in releasing 'Fit for the Future' recommendations until this information has been made publicly available to all local councils.

I look forward to the prompt public release of this information.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DSH', followed by a stylized flourish.

David Shoebridge