

<b>ITEM 5.6</b>	<b>MAYORAL MINUTE NO 21/2014 - FIT FOR THE FUTURE STUDIES</b>
<b>TRIM FILE REF</b>	<b>2014/311146</b>
<b>ATTACHMENTS</b>	<b>NIL</b>

**BACKGROUND**

With the State Government's release last month of the Fit for the Future package, it is clear that Warringah, along with every other council in the State needs to demonstrate a solid plan for the future.

Our plan will need to address the Government's criteria for sustainable councils – showing that we are 'Fit for the Future'.

Ensuring that we are 'Fit for the Future' makes great sense for our community. Local Government reform will also deliver a range of benefits for the State Government. We would have greater planning powers and priority access to State funds and grants as well as low-cost loans.

So, while we need to keep exploring our options with other councils in coming months, we also need to embark on some studies and community engagement to ensure we can address the 'Fit for the Future' criteria.

I propose that we start these studies now to get the analysis we need as well as feedback from the community about our future as a stand-alone council or possible amalgamation. This work could be funded by the substantial refund of \$57,000 we have received from Statewide Insurance.

I reiterate it is very important that we will be able to prove that Warringah has a sound basis for our 'Fit for the Future' plan. We must also be able to demonstrate that the plan has been developed based on sound studies and highlights a strong sense of the community's confidence.

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**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council

- A. Approve the use of \$57,000 refunded from Statewide Insurance, to help fund studies, research and community engagement in preparation of a robust 'Fit for the Future' proposal.
- B. Follow the NSW State Government defined process for developing a 'Fit for the Future' proposal and strongly consider the recommendations of the Final Report of the NSW Independent Local Government Review Panel, October 2013.

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**Michael Regan**  
**MAYOR**