

Plea to scrap aldermen

The Mayor of Ryde, Alderman H. R. Anderson, yesterday suggested scrapping aldermen and appointing chief executive officers to control local councils.

He was speaking before a committee in Sydney inquiring into local government areas and administration.

Ald. Anderson said the chief executive officer would act as a mayor of a local council and be appointed for a term of at least four years.

He said deliberations by 12 aldermen cost too much time and money.

"I favor only one person to operate a council," he said.

But this would mean that municipalities would have to be considerably condensed, he said.

The Mayor of North Sydney, Ald. J. M. O'Dea, told the committee his council was generally opposed to amalgamation between councils.

He said he was shocked to read a report which said Sydney's 40 councils would more than likely be

reduced to 12 by next year.

Amalgamation by the North Sydney Council with adjoining councils would weaken the close relationship which existed between aldermen and ratepayers, he said.

Professor Henry Maddick, director of the Institute of Local Government Studies at Birmingham University, said yesterday local councils and authorities should be consolidated and reduced in number to increase effectiveness.