Attachment C

Community Engagement Plan, Details and Summary

a. Community engagement plan

Introduction

On 24 February 2015, Council resolved to commence a community engagement program to inform residents and businesses about the NSW Government proposed amalgamation of Leichhardt Council with Ashfield, Burwood, Canada Bay, Marrickville and Strathfield Councils. This program was intended to educate the community on the costs/benefits of any proposed amalgamation, to determine the community's views on amalgamations and the future of Leichhardt Council.

Every household and business in the LGA was hand delivered detailed information in mid-March from Council on the reforms, including advice on the outcomes of the independent modelling of the impacts of the amalgamation and a survey for residents and businesses to complete on this matter.

Information booths were also held over March and April in prominent locations in Leichhardt, Annandale, Lilyfield, Rozelle and Balmain. Again, these booths were designed to inform the community and to gain their views on amalgamations. This was supplemented with 3 formal community workshops in March, April & May.

A summary of the engagement outcomes are presented below.

The community's response to amalgamations

Council undertook formal (statistically valid) surveys to gauge the community's views on amalgamations. The surveys and results are presented below:

1. Random phone survey

This survey was undertaken by Piazza Research, an independent (ISDO 20252 quality certified) market and social research firm, in March 2015. A total of 304 responses were achieved: for a 95% confidence interval, this sample size provides results accurate to within a +/- 5.6% margin of error for overall results, which is considered reliable for this type of research.

To ensure that this random phone survey was unbiased and objective, Council first sought and gained assurance from Piazza Research who structured the questions for simple awareness raising and the amalgamation facts, therein providing options to answer positively or negatively with no attempt to sway or suggestion to respondents that a positive or negative answer is 'preferred' or 'correct' or 'better' etc.

The structure of the random phone survey meets the following industry requirements put forward by Piazza Research to avoid any perception or accusation of "push polling ":

Legitimate Polls/Message Testing Research	"Push-Poll" Calls
Generally five minutes or longer. (Piazza Research survey was 15 minutes long)	Generally 1 to 2 minutes long.
Neither support nor oppose issue or information being tested; seek only to collect unbiased information. (Q45 asked a simple question of respondents about whether they supported an actual state government plan. Respondents were free to choose either a positive or negative answer. There is no attempt to trick or convince respondents that one answer is better than another. Also, the fact that substantial numbers of respondents, responded to the positive as well as to the negative shows that respondents were free to answer either way.)	Designed to persuade people, not to measure actual opinion. (Often results are not even recorded).
Asks opinions about facts or about message testing for the purpose of collecting genuine opinion data. (Q45 posed factual information about a real NSW Government plan. No hidden message was delivered implying that one type of answer was better than another by the respondent.)	Poses a non-factual piece of information designed to impart a negative message about a candidate or issue.
Include questions regarding respondent demographics, such as age range or gender. (Piazza Research asked several demographic questions in order to provide a detailed analysis.)	Do not ask any personal or demographic questions, which could be used to analyse poll results.
Conducted by a credible research firm. Clearly identify the organization or	May mask the organization or call centre making the call, or use a

call centre making the call. (Piazza Research is an ISO 20252 quality cerified research firm. We are a member of AMSRO and abide by both the AMSRO and AMSRS codes of professional behaviour. Piazza Research clearly identifies itself on the phone and our client and the purpose of the research. We provide contact details for Piazza Research for any enquiries and we do not hide the phone numbers of our outgoing telephone lines to ensure transparency).	phony name.
A statistically rigorous sampling procedure is used to ensure a representative sample rather than simply to contact as many people as possible to deliver a message. (Piazza Research used a random probability sampling procedure. This provided all residents with the same opportunity to be selected for the poll and to have their say. Our sample size was 304. This was used as we are able to calculate (for the population size of Leichhardt) that overall survey results will be accurate to within a +/-5.6% margin of error.).	Tend to target thousands of people, regardless of demographics. It is not done with a statistically rigorous (reliable sample) it targets as many members of a population as possible in order to try to sway votes against a candidate or idea. They are often done towards tens of thousands of people to try to spread a message as far and wide as possible.

The phone survey found:

- A high awareness of the State Government's Fit for the Future amalgamations plans for local councils:
  - 78% of local residents were aware of the amalgamation plan proposed by the State Government.

- Little support for the proposed amalgamation of Leichhardt Councils with Ashfield, Burwood, Canada Bay, Marrickville and Strathfield Councils:
  - 61% of local residents were not very/not at all supportive towards the new amalgamated council; 17% were supportive or very supportive of amalgamation.
- Majority support for Leichhardt Council to remain a stand-alone (non-amalgamated) council:
  - 55% of local residents stated that they preferred the Leichhardt Council to remain as a stand-alone council; 19% said they preferred an amalgamated council.

   - The three most common reasons for preferring the stand-alone option were: they feared they would lose individual voice on local issues (42%); thought smaller councils are easier to manage (26%) and there was "no need to change" (17%)

Source: Piazza Research Pty Ltd, *Leichhardt Municipal Council Community Survey 2014-15*, April 2015 page 37 - 39 – **attached herein.**

2. Online survey and reply paid/letters: Details

In December 2014, Council launched an online survey and in March 2015, every household and business in the LGA was provided detailed information on the reform program, including independent advice on the financial costs/benefits of the NSW Government proposed amalgamation of Leichhardt Council with its inner west neighbouring councils. This information pack also included a survey which residents could complete and return to council via a reply paid envelope – questions were similar to those employed by Piazza Research (brochure and survey are attached to this document). A total of 1,378 survey responses were received (147 of which were reply paid mail responses, the balance on line and each with a unique ISP) by mid May 2015. The results follow:

- A high awareness of the State Government's Fit for the Future amalgamations plans for local councils:
   - 76% of respondents were aware of the amalgamation plan proposed by the State Government.

- Little support for the proposed amalgamation of Leichhardt Councils with Ashfield, Burwood, Canada Bay, Marrickville and Strathfield Councils:
   - 76% of respondents were not very/not at all supportive towards the new amalgamated council; 18% were supportive or very supportive of amalgamation.

- Majority support for Leichhardt Council to remain a stand-alone (non-amalgamated) council:
   - 72% of respondents stated that they preferred the Leichhardt Council to remain as a stand-alone council; 19% said they preferred an amalgamated council.

- Council's on line survey and mail out brochure with survey questions also follows

Summary: An overview of the survey findings

The surveys reveal that the community is overwhelming <u>opposed </u>to the amalgamation of Leichhardt Council with Ashfield, Burwood, Canada Bay, Marrickville and Strathfield councils as proposed by the NSW Government. Further, the community is supportive of Leichhardt Council remaining a stand-alone council into the future.

b. Summary of engagement activities

Communication Medium	Action	Date
Online Survey	Initial survey posted – are you aware of Fit for the Future plans	09/12/14
Social Media	Roll out of Facebook and Twitter posts throughout month	10/12/14
eNews	No Forced Amalgamations	12/12/14
eNews	No Forced Amalgamations	18/12/14
eNews	No Forced Amalgamations	22/01/15
Courier Page	Mayors Column: No to Amalgamations	06/02/15
Media Release	Joint Release: No Forced Amalgamations in the Inner West (included photo opp with all mayors)	18/02/15
Media Release	Joint media release with Key messages – from all the Mayors	25/02/15
Web Page	www.leichhardt.nsw.gov.au/amalgamations web page significantly updated with new information, link to report.	25/02/15
Web Site	www.noforcedamalgamations.com.au website launched	25/02/15
Web Page	www.leichhardt.nsw.gov.au – featured article on Council's home page. Alternating with other articles for duration of community information campaign	25/02/15
eNews	No Forced Amalgamations Joint Report Received	26/02/15
Courier Page	No Forced Amalgamations, Have Your Say	03/03/15
Online survey	Updated comprehensive survey provided	04/03/15
eNews	Mega Council not fit for the future Total emails sent: 4319 Total emails read: 1270 Percentage emails read: 29.40%	06/03/15
Councillor Workshop	Councillors briefed on Fit for the Future research and implications	07/03/15
Courier Page	No Forced Amalgamations, Find out more	11/03/15
Community Notice Boards	Posters up on to community boards – promoting webpage, online engagement, information sessions	16/03/15
Advertisement	Courier Newspaper, ¼ page. Find out more, Public Meeting, How can I have my say	17/03/15
Courier Page	Community news. Published 31 March. Have Your Say	17/03/15
Advertisement	Inner West Independent Newspaper, ¼ page. Find out more, Public Meeting, How can I have my say	17/03/11
No Amalgamations Newsletter/survey	Commenced distribution. Information, survey – distributed to local households and businesses.	18/03/15

eNews	No Forced Amalgamations Find Out More, Have Your Say	19/03/15
Resident Newsletter	Commenced distribution. Lead article. Pointer to brochure, web, survey.	21/03/15
Staff Briefings	Email to all staff informing key points of research, asking them to spread the word also.	24/03/15
Phone Survey	Council's biannual phone survey included section on amalgamation options. Undertaken by independent firm Piazza Research	24/03/15
Advertisement	Ciao Newspaper, ¼ page. Find out more, Public Meeting, How can I have my say	25/03/11
eNews	No Forced Amalgamations Find Out More, Have Your Say	26/03/15
Social Media	External contractors begin rolling out 5 week social media program. One Tweet, one Facebook, One Instagram per day for first three weeks. Then one Facebook per day / one Instagram/twitter per three days.	27/03/15
Information Booth	Annandale town centre	29/03/15
Information Booth	Classics at Callan Park	29/03/15
eNews	No Forced Amalgamations Find Out More, Have Your Say	02/04/15
Advertisement	Ciao Newspaper, ¼ page. Have Your Say, Public Meeting	10/04/15
Information Booth	Orange Grove Markets Rozelle	11/04/15
Councillor Workshop	Councillors briefed on Fit for the Future research and community engagement progress	11/04/15
Information Booth	Loyalty Square Balmain	12/04/15
eNews	Council Amalgamations Get Involved – 13 April 2015 Total emails sent: 4263 Total emails read: 1147 Percentage emails read: 26.91%	13/04/15
Advertisement	Courier Newspaper, ¼ page. Have Your Say, Public Meeting	14/04/15
eNews	Council Amalgamations Get Involved – 13 April 2015 Total emails sent: 20357	15/04/15
Advertisement	Independent Newspaper, ¼ page. Have Your Say, Public Meeting	17/04/15
Information Booth	Market Town Leichhardt	18/04/15
Community Workshop	Community presentation on Fit for the Future research and community engagement progress	20/04/15
Councillor Workshop	Councillors briefed on latest Fit for the Future issues and community feedback	21/04/15
Community	Public meeting on the FFF program and presentation of the	7/5/15

Meeting	independent modelling by Morrison Low	
Community Workshop	Community update on FFF program	18/5/15
Council Meeting	Adopted Council's FFF draft submission for exhibition	19/5/15
Public Exhibition of the draft FFF submission	Web site; all community facilities ; local advertising; e news	20/5/15 to mid June
Council Meeting	To adopt Council's FFF submission to the NSW Government	23/6/15

Leichhardt Municipal Council Community Survey 2014-2015

April 2015

Piazza Research

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ISO 20252 Market and Social Research

AMSRO

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BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY

The Leichhardt Municipal Council regularly monitors satisfaction among local residents with services provided. Between March and April 2015, the Council selected Piazza Research, an independent (ISO 20252 quality certified) market and social research firm, to conduct a community survey to measure resident satisfaction and to explore other issues within the local community.

Methodology

Data collection

The Leichhardt Municipal Council management team worked with Piazza Research to construct the survey questions. The phone survey was conducted using computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI). The data collected during March 2015.

Sample Design

A total of 304 responses were achieved. For the 95% confidence interval, this sample size provides results accurate to within a +/- 5.6% margin of error for overall results, which is considered reliable for this type of research.

Data Processing and Analysis

Piazza Research used its own statistical software, 'Q', and Excel to analyse survey results. Software validation and post data-entry checks were conducted to ensure data integrity before analysis.

A descriptive analysis was performed producing graphs, tables and frequency counts. For simplicity of describing results in the written commentary, overall satisfaction trends were described by grouping *satisfied* and *very satisfied* (or *dissatisfied* and *very dissatisfied*) to represent the general opinion.

Quality Assurance System – This project complies with the ISO 20252 Market, Opinion and Social Research Standard.

Rounding error – Percentage results have been rounded to the nearest whole per cent. Percentages in some graphs may total slightly more or less than 100%.

Multiple choice questions – Percentages may add to more than 100% for questions where respondents could select more than one option from a list.

Treatment of open-ended question – Open-ended (or free form) responses were analysed for content, then summarised. Consultants developed a coding frame for this question, sorting similar types of answers into descriptive categories. These groupings were then statistically analysed.

Demographic breakdowns – Breakdowns by various demographics were provide for Question 36, the council's overall performance, and Question 38, the general living quality in the area. This provided more detail regarding attitudes held across different types of people. Where there was no noticeable difference between groups, the demographic breakdown was not included.

SUMMARY OF MAIN FINDINGS

- Demographic distribution – A good sample distribution was achieved across the population by demographics.
- Community well-being – Among those who used community well-being services, there was a general trend of very high overall satisfaction. Almost all programs had an overall satisfaction rate above eighty-five per cent (85%), except the Aboriginal and Cultural Diversity Programs, which had an overall satisfaction of 68%. The three programs enjoying highest satisfaction were community events (98%), library services (97%), and aquatic centres and arts and cultural services, both (95%).
- Accessibility – Road maintenance had the highest overall satisfaction rating at 64%, and the second highest was footpath and cycle path maintenance (60%). Parking management had the highest rating of overall dissatisfaction (51%).

  Local residents usually travel with their private vehicles (49% within the council area, and 60% to and from Leichhardt). Within the local districts, the second preferred travel method was walking (25%), followed by bus (19%), then bicycle (6%). Bus was also the second favourite for people to traveling to and from the area (27%), followed by train (5%).
- A place where we live and work –Local residents considered the management of parks, gardens and sporting fields as the most satisfactory council service with84% of residents satisfied overall. People were also very satisfied regarding the management of main streets (75%), and street trees, plantings and verges (70%). The highest overall dissatisfaction rate was with the processing of development applications (32%); higher than the overall satisfaction rate of 20%. Almost half (49%) of local residents did not use development application services in the last 12 months.

  Overall, 75% of people agreed to the statement: "Leichhardt Council is heritage conscious".
- A sustainable environment – Eighty-nine per cent (89%) of residents showed overall satisfaction about waste and recycling services provided by Council. Seventy-seven per cent (77%) of residents considered Leichhardt Council committed to environmental sustainability (71% agreed and 6% strongly agreed).

  To residents, the three most important environmental issues were air and water pollution from passing ships and airplanes (22%), the control of traffic congestion and reducing the use of private cars (19%), and the lack of infrastructure due to overpopulation (14%).
- Business in the community – The three most popular shopping districts visited by locals were: Leichhardt/Norton Street (25%), Balmain/Darling Street (23%), and Market Place at Marion Street (21%).

  Twenty-five per cent (25%) of local residents would like to see more competitive supermarkets (against Woolworths), such as Aldi, Kmart, and other fresh food groceries. Seventeen per cent (17%) of people worried there were too many shops closing down in recent years and wanted council to promote local business activities. Fourteen per cent (14%) would like more diversified restaurants.

- Sustainable services and assets – Fifty seven per cent (57%) of residents considered Council rates and fees as representing value for money, 26% disagreed. Thirty eight per cent (38%) thought Council managed its finances well, 20% disagreed and 42% were unsure.

  The majority (55%) of residents agreed that Council would do what it said, 23% disagreed. A total of 69% felt the council encouraged community participation and open government and 54% believed Council was committed to meaningful consultation on all issues of concern to residents and businesses.

  Seventy one per cent (71%) of locals were aware of the existence of precinct committees and 65% received a meeting notice. Most residents (61%) would read the notices, and 19% of residents would be interested in participating in committees in the future.

- Customer service – Sixty-two per cent (62%) of residents contacted the council with a query or request for information in the last 12 months. The largest group (40%) called the Citizen's Service Centre in the first instance. Of those who had used the centre, 85% were satisfied with its service.

  Two thirds (66%) of residents agreed that Leichhardt Council offered a high level of customer service (60% agreed, and 6% strongly agreed).

  Suggestions for improving customer service included; better training of council staff in providing professional customer service and using technology (38%), improve response times to queries (20%).

- Communication and information – The three most popular methods for Council to contact local residents were letter box pamphlets and newsletters (46%), council website (38%), and information from local newspaper articles (34%).

  Forty six per cent (46%) of residents would read the weekly Leichhardt Council page in the Tuesday edition of the Inner West Courier, 69% received the quarterly Leichhardt Council Residents Newsletter and 85% of people who received this would read it. Almost a fifth (19%) of respondents had already subscribed to the Council's E-newsletter and 10% of those not currently subscribed would like to subscribe to it.

- Council's overall performance – overall 89% of residents rated Council's overall performance as satisfactory (37%), good (34%) or very good (18%).

  Those dissatisfied indicated dissatisfaction with; Council not responding to complaints or the provision of poor customer service (37%) inadequate parking (14%), and dissatisfaction with waste collection and local cleaning (14%).

- Leichhardt now – Ninety-eight per cent (98%) of local residents rate their quality of life above satisfactory (52% very good plus 30% good). Just over half (51%) felt their quality of life improved since they moved to the local area, 37% thought it had stayed the same.

  The top three current issues of concern were traffic congestion and road management (19%), insufficient parking (18%), and overpopulation and overdevelopment of the area (16%). The top three issues residents would like Council to lobby for were parking, green cover and public parkland, and traffic and road management.

- Leichhardt in the future – Key priority areas locals would like the council to spend its budget on were; infrastructure such as roads and footpaths; waste and recycling; aged & disability services; support and development of local employment and business opportunities; and traffic management.

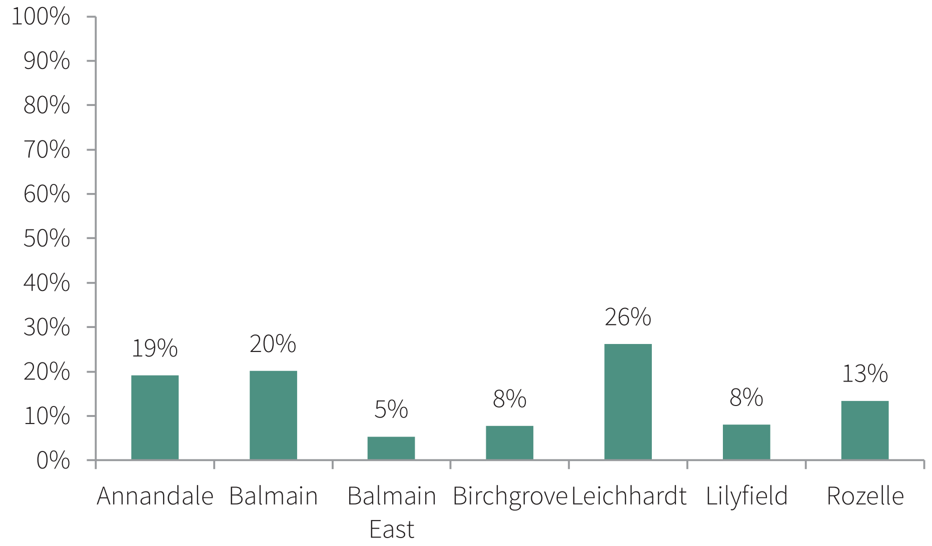
  Seventy eight per cent (78%) of residents were aware of the State Government's plan for future amalgamation of local councils. Most (61%) were either *not at all supportive* of this idea (46%), or *not very supportive* (15%). Just over a fifth (22%) were somewhat supportive, and 17% were overall supportive.

  The majority of residents (55%) preferred the council to remain standalone, as they worried they would lose individual representation on local issues (42%) or they considered smaller councils easier to manage (26%). Nineteen per cent (19%) would like to see the formation of a Megacouncil, as they thought this would reduce the number of public servants and improve management efficiency (33%) or a scale of economy would apply to services, and local people would have more influence over matters (24%).

DETAILED RESULTS

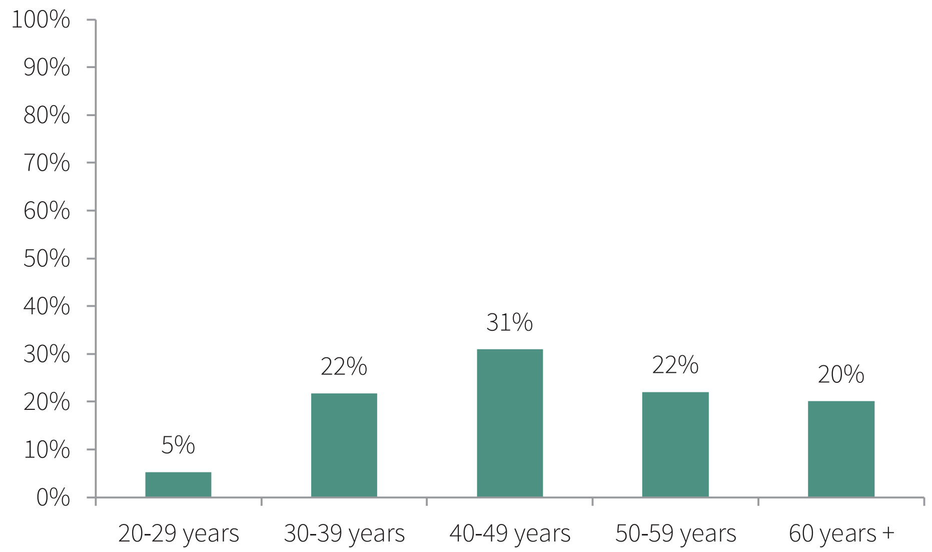
DEMOGRAPHICS

Q1. Suburbs of participated residents



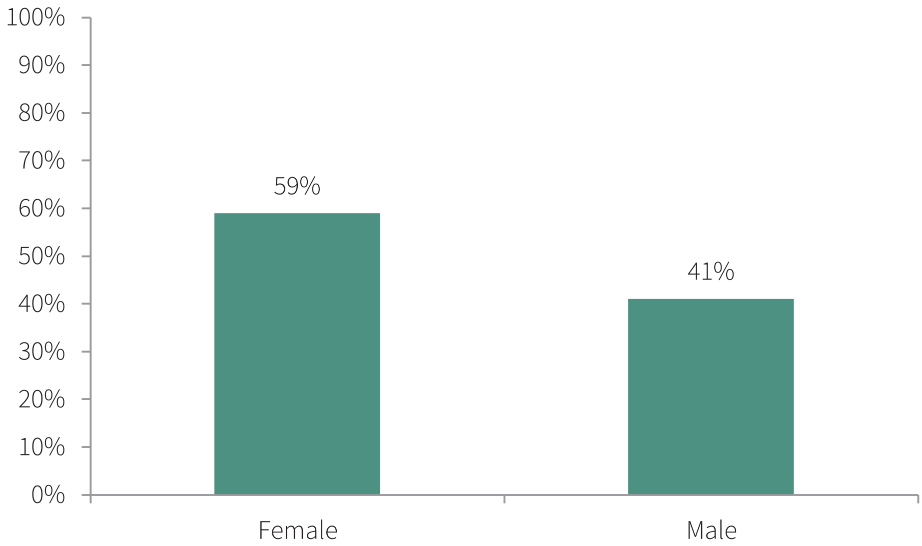
Base = 298

Q2. Age distribution of participating residents



Base = 304

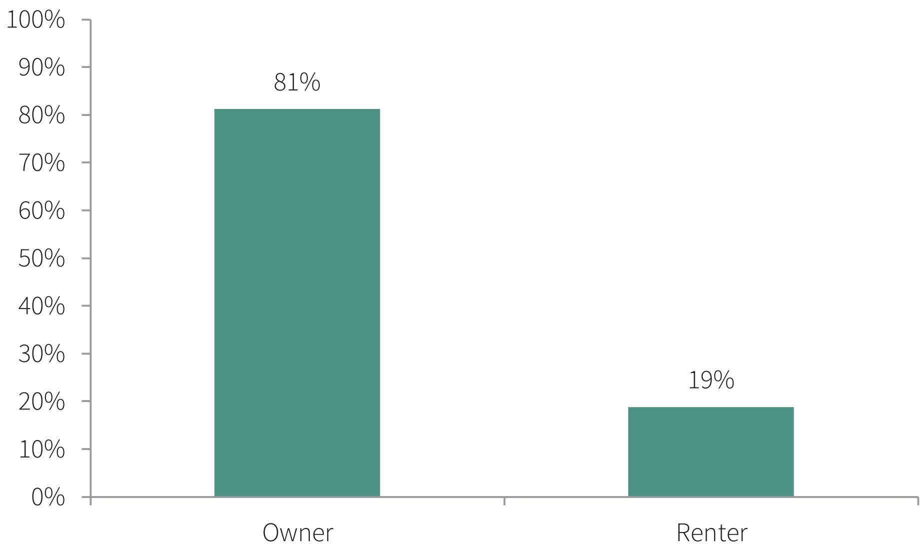
Q3. Gender



Base = 302

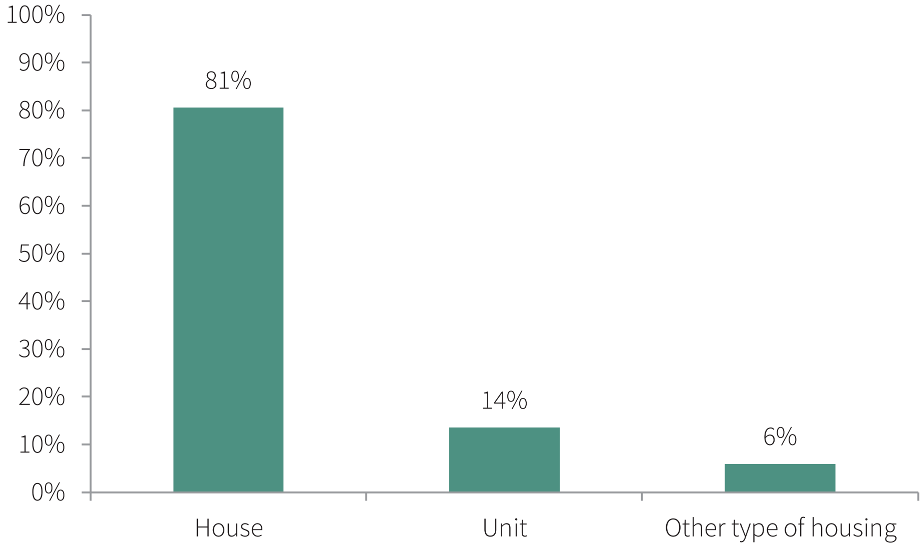
Q4. Are you a home owner or a renter?

Eighty-one per cent (81%) of residents were home owners, and 19% renters.



Base = 303

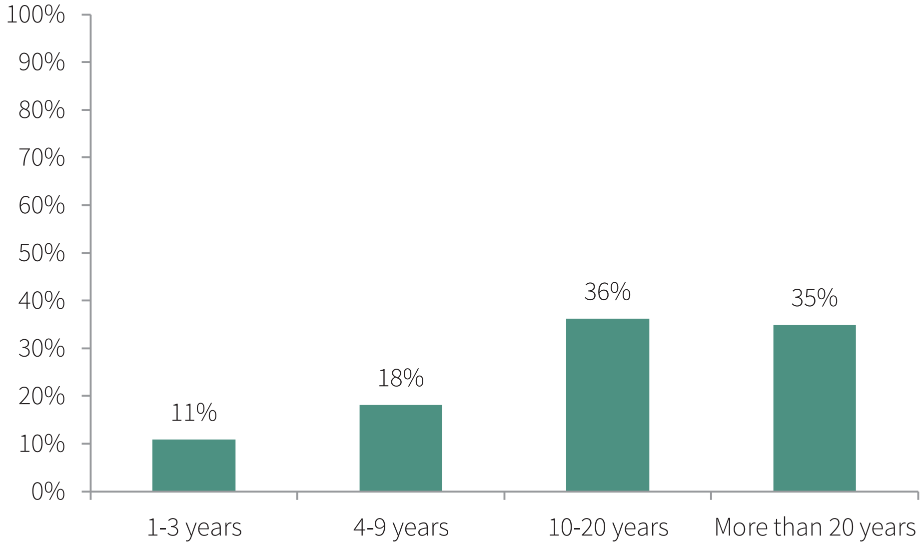
Q5. Do you live in a house, unit or another type of housing?



Eighty-one per cent (81%) of residents in the council area lived in houses, and 14% lived in units.

Base = 303

Q6. How long have you lived in the Leichhardt Council area? (years)

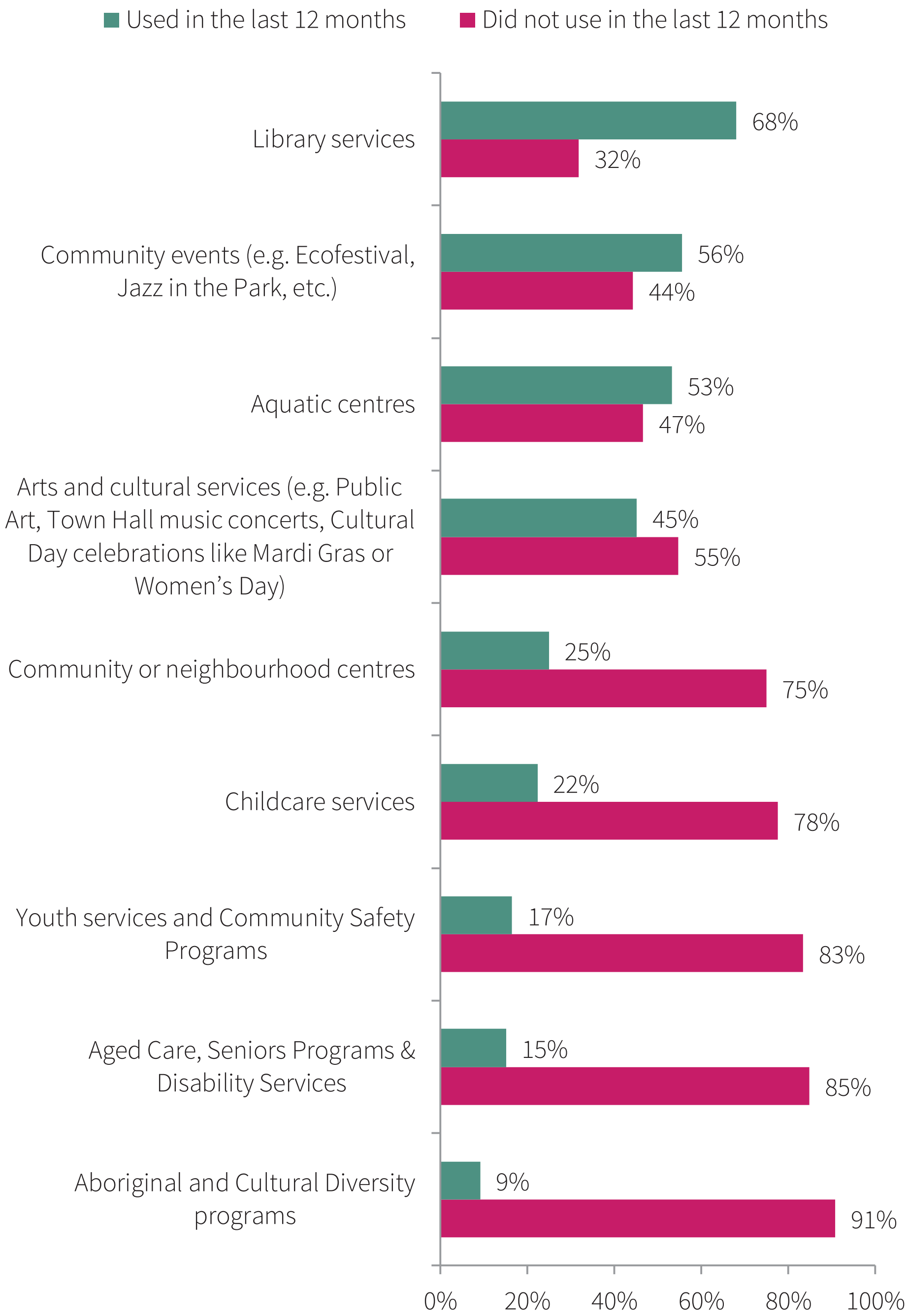


Thirty-five per cent (35%) of residents lived in the Leichhardt council area for more than 20 years, and 36% between 10-20 years. Eighteen per cent (18%) lived in the area between 4-9 years and 11% for less than 3 years.

Base = 304

COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

Q7. Usage in the last 12 months

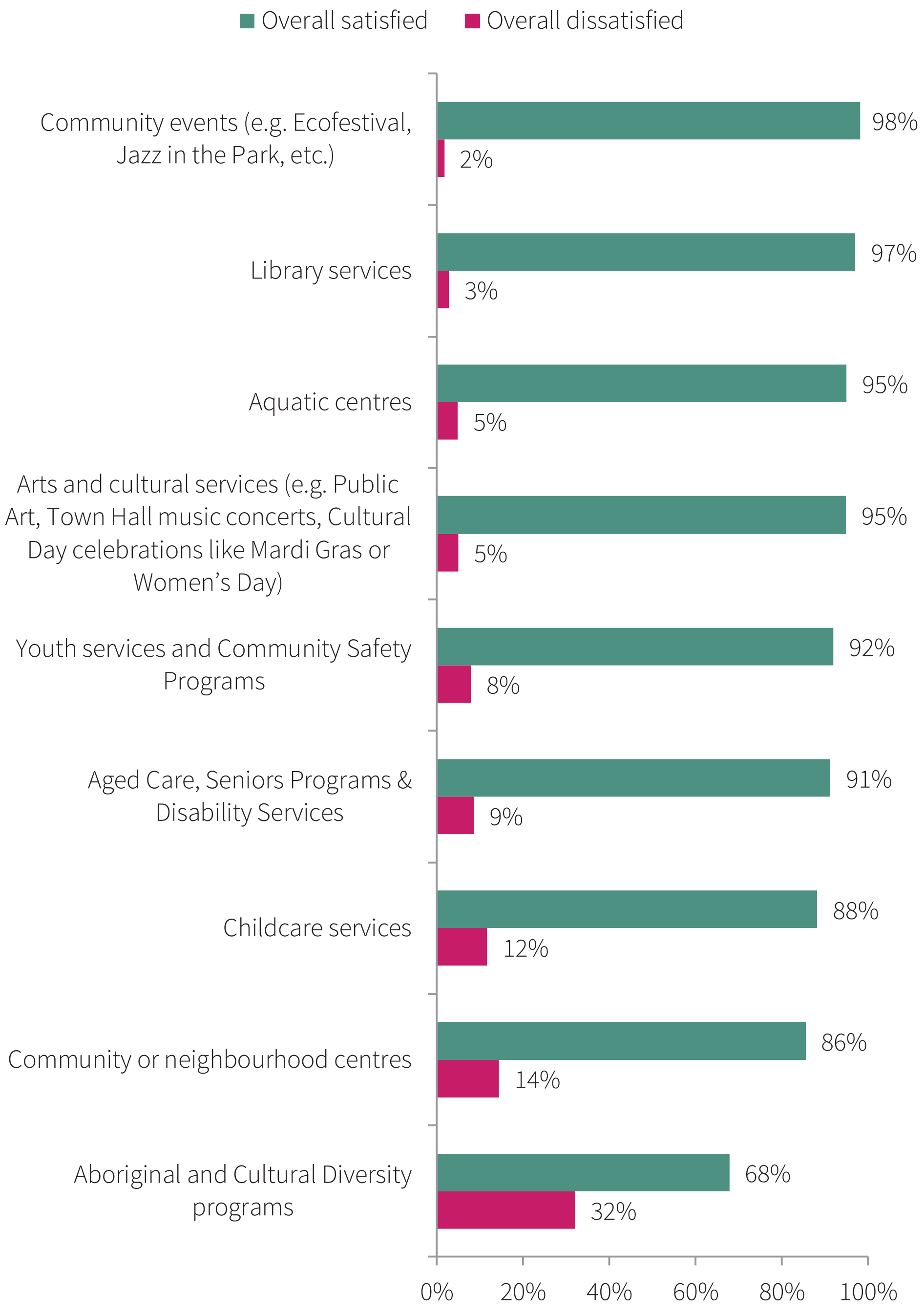


Base min = 302, Base max = 304

The library services had the highest usage, 68% of residents accessed the service in the last 12 months. Other actively used services were community events (56%), aquatic centres (53%), and arts and cultural services (45%).

The Aboriginal and Cultural Diversity programs had the least users, some 9% of residents used. The Aged Care, Seniors Programs & Disability Services had 15% people accessing, and the youth services and Community Safety Programs had 17% residents using them.

Q7. Satisfaction rating



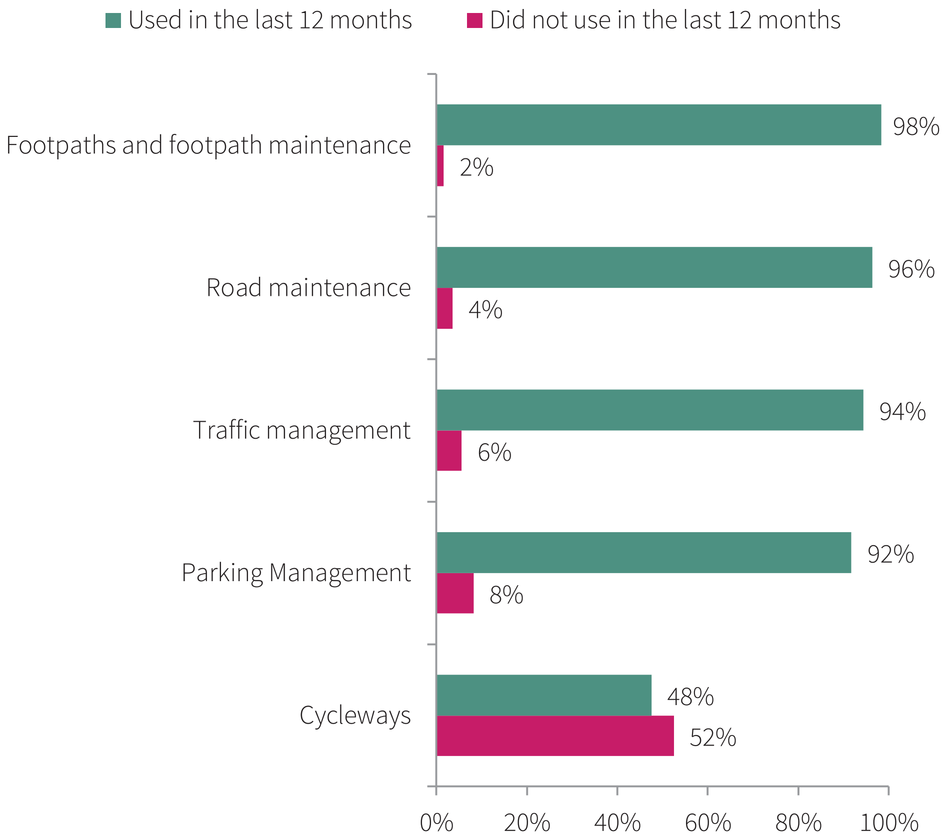
Base min = 28, Base max = 207

Community events had the highest overall satisfaction (98%), considering only people who used these services, library services were the second highest (97%), and both aquatic centres and arts and cultural services had satisfaction rates of 95%.

The aboriginal and cultural diversity programs had the lowest satisfaction rate, being 68%.

ACCESSIBILITY

Q8. Usage in the last 12 months

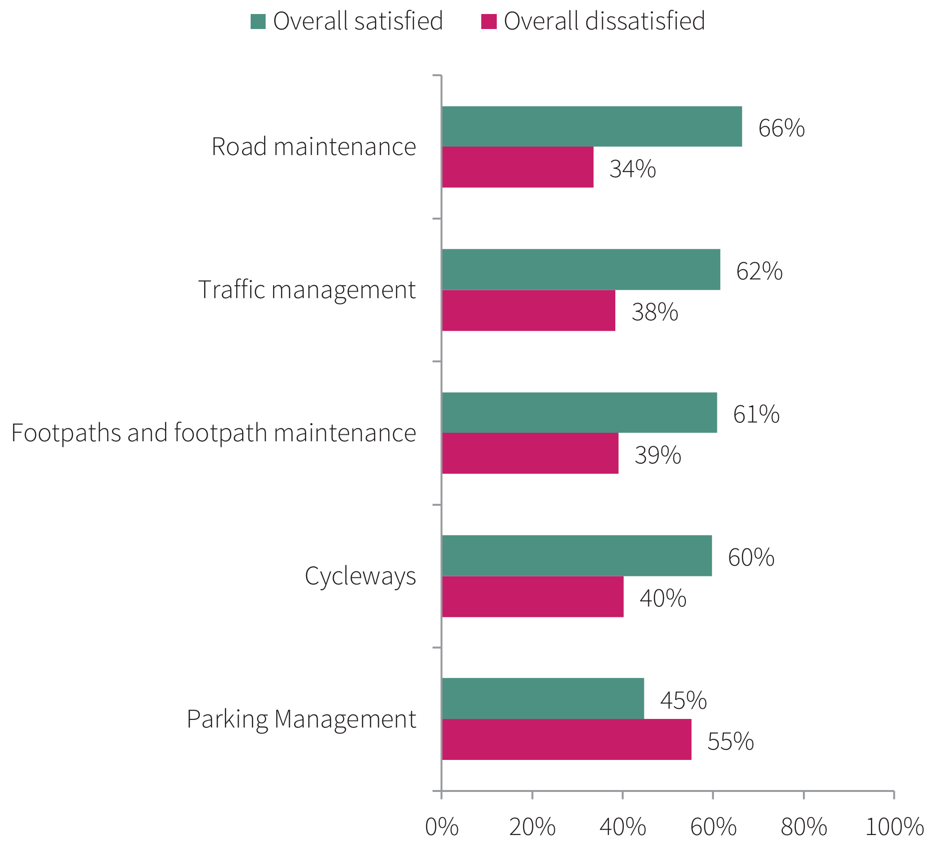


Base min = 303, Base max = 304

Most services were extensively used by the resident: footpaths and maintenance (98%), road maintenance (96%), traffic management (94%), and parking management (92%).

There were 48% of residents who used cycleways.

Q8. Satisfaction rating

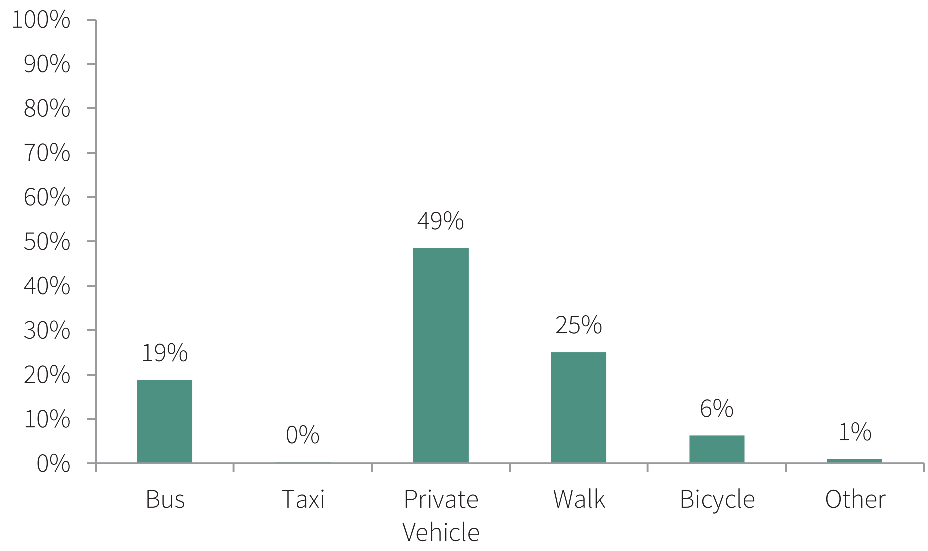


Base min = 144, Base max = 299

Road maintenance had the highest overall satisfaction rating (66%), followed by traffic management (62%), footpaths and maintenance (61%), and cycleways (60%).

Fifty-five per cent (55%) of residents were overall dissatisfied with the parking management.

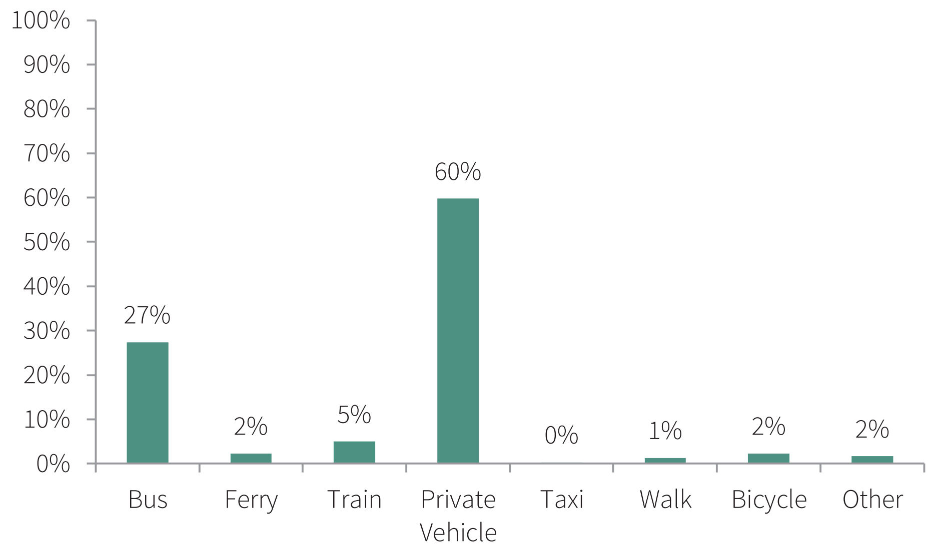
Q9. Satisfaction with how do you normally travel within Leichhardt?



Base = 303

About half (49%) of the council residents usually travel by their private vehicles. 25% walk, 19% take the bus, and 6% use bicycles.

Q10. Satisfaction with how do you normally travel to and from Leichhardt?

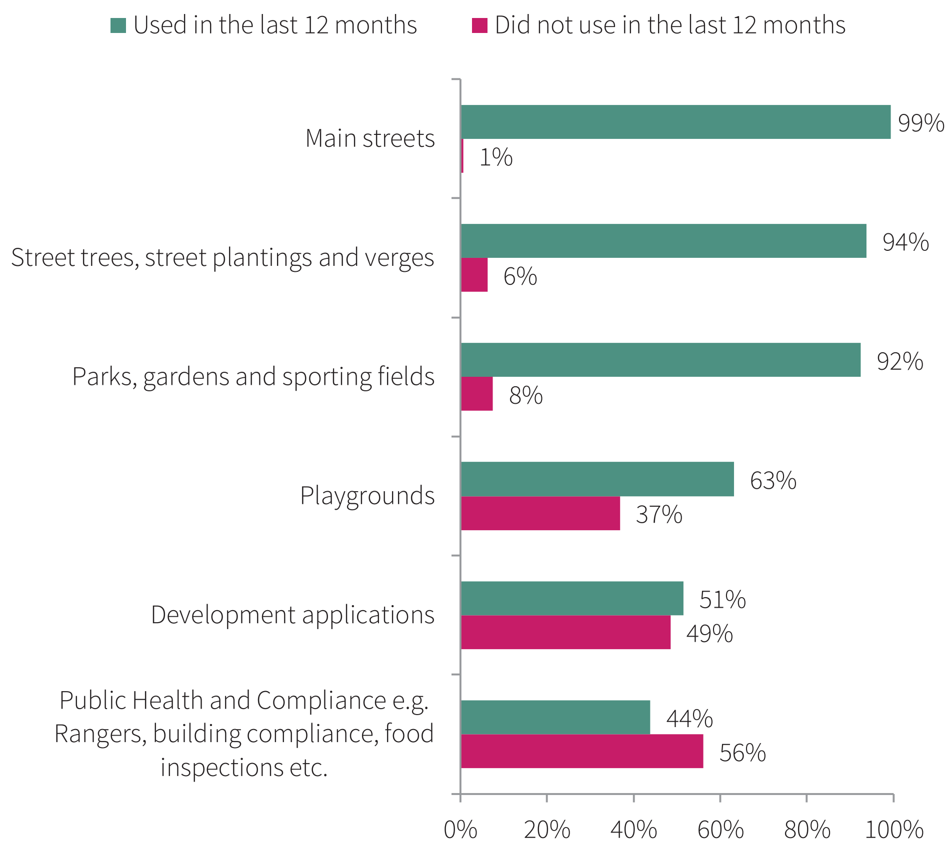


Base = 304

Sixty per cent (60%) of local residents travel to and from Leichhardt using their own private vehicles. 27% take the bus, and 5% use the train.

A PLACE WHERE WE LIVE AND WORK

Q11. Usage in the last 12 months

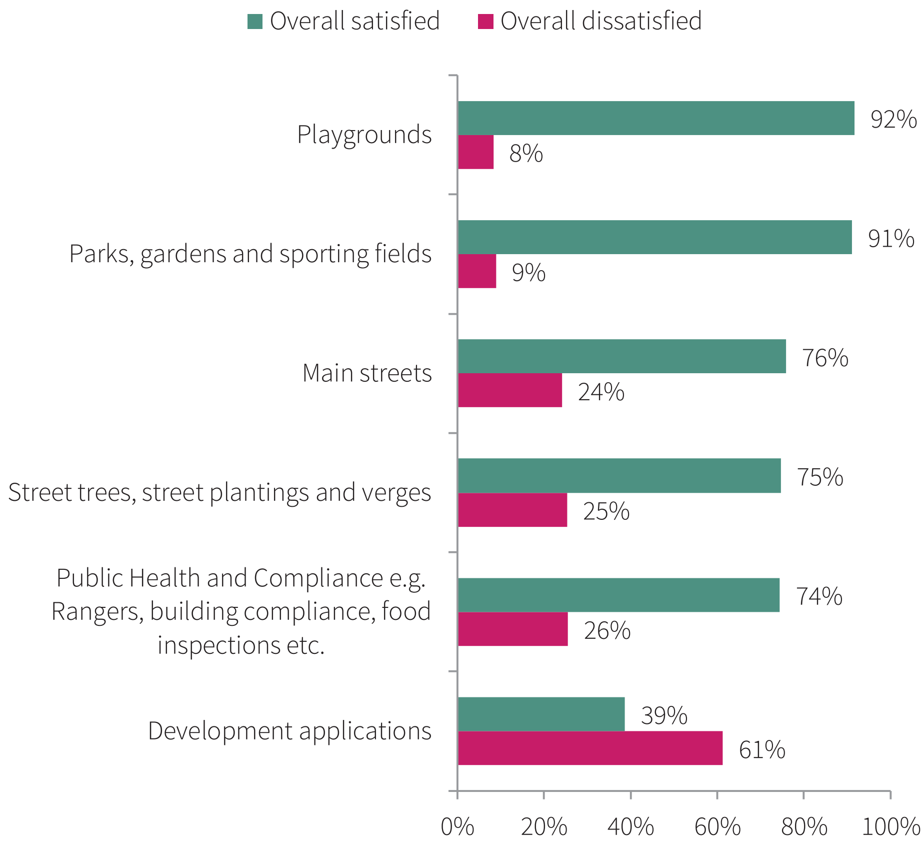


Base min = 301, Base max = 304

The top three mostly used services were main streets (99%), street trees, planting and verges (94%), and parks, gardens and sporting fields (92%).

The least used services were Public Health and Compliance (44%), development applications (51%), and playgrounds (63%).

Q11. Satisfaction rating



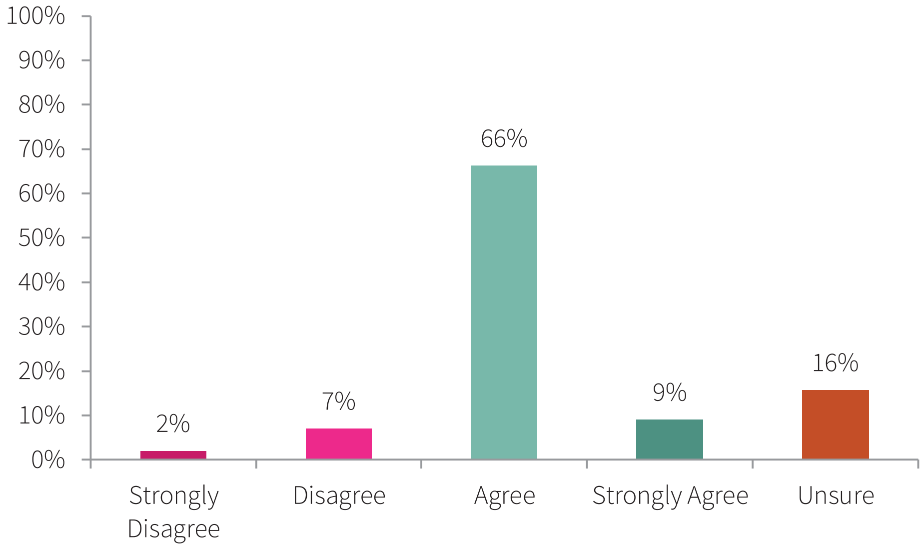
Base min = 133, Base max = 302

Playgrounds and parks, gardens and sporting fields had the highest satisfaction rates being 92% and 91% respectively.

Seventy-six per cent (76%) of residents were satisfied with the main streets, and street trees, planting and verges made 75% people satisfied.

Development application had the lowest satisfaction rating being 39%.

Q12. Please rate your level of agreement with the following statement: Leichhardt Council is heritage conscious.

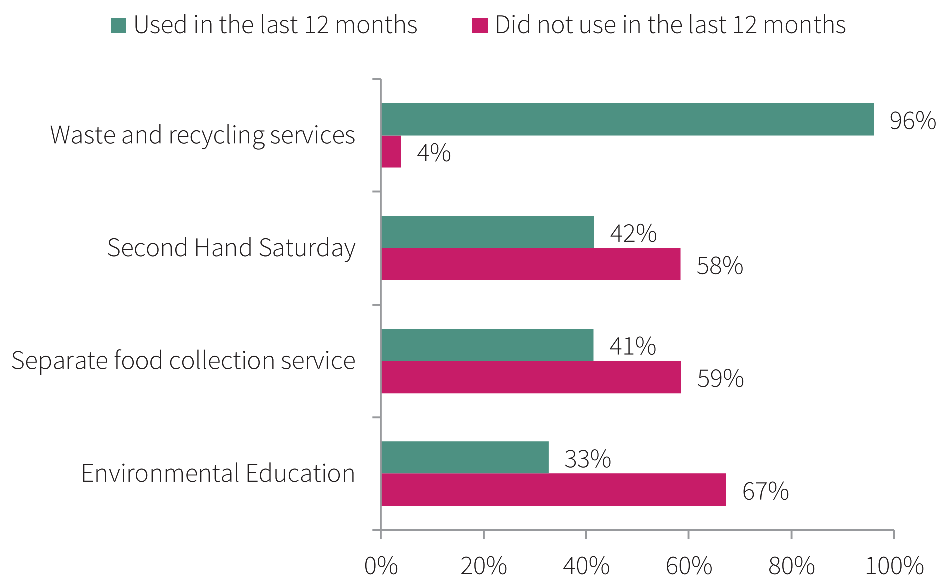


Base = 299

Three quarters (75%) of all residents agreed to this statement, and among them 66% stated they agreed, and 9% said strongly agreed. 16% of the residents were unsure about this.

A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

Q13. Usage in the last 12 months

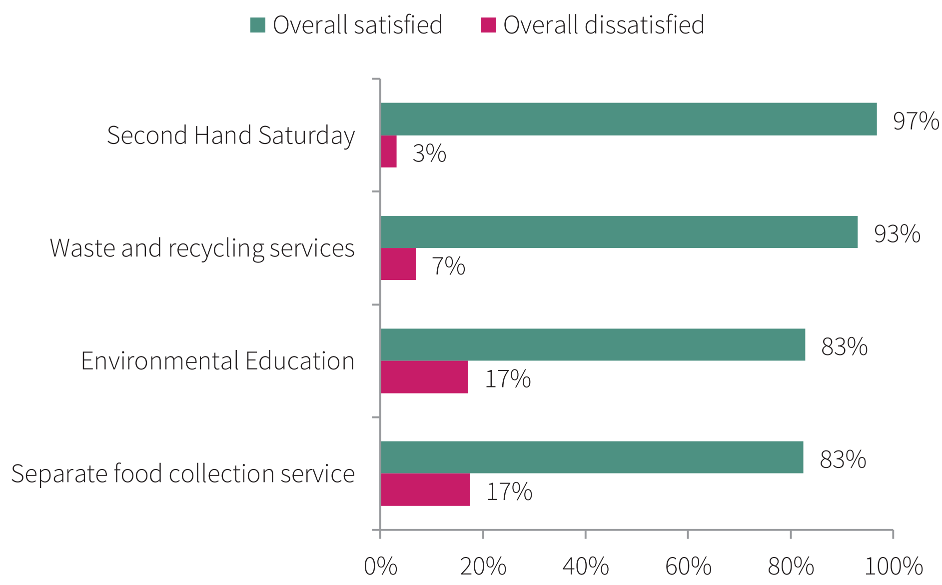


Base min = 303, Base max = 304

Ninety-six per cent (96%) of local residents used the waste and recycling services.

Forty-two per cent (42%) participated in Second Hand Saturday, 41% used the separate food collection service, and 33% received Environmental Education.

Q13. Satisfaction rating

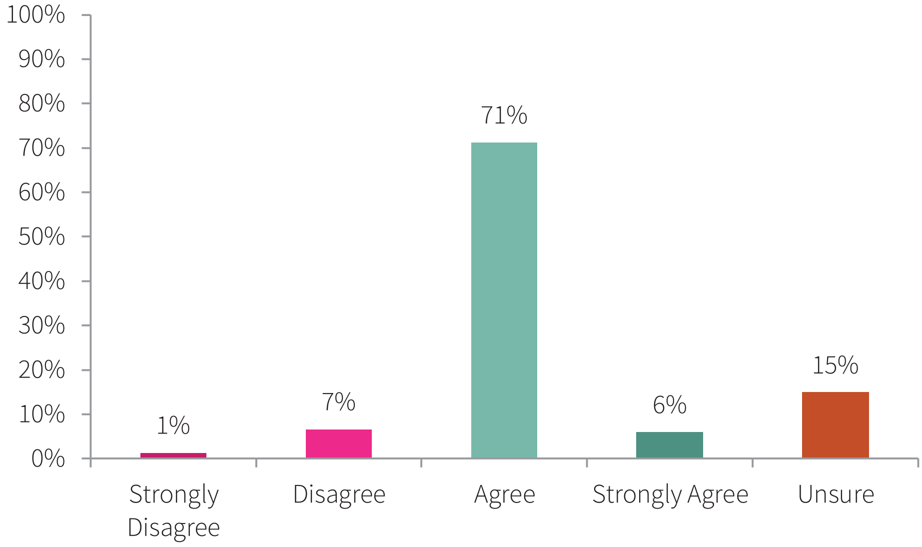


Base min = 99, Base max = 291

Ninety-seven per cent (97%) of residents were overall satisfied with the Second Hand Saturday, and 93% were satisfied with the waste and recycling services.

Both Environmental Education and separate food collection service received 83% overall satisfaction respectively.

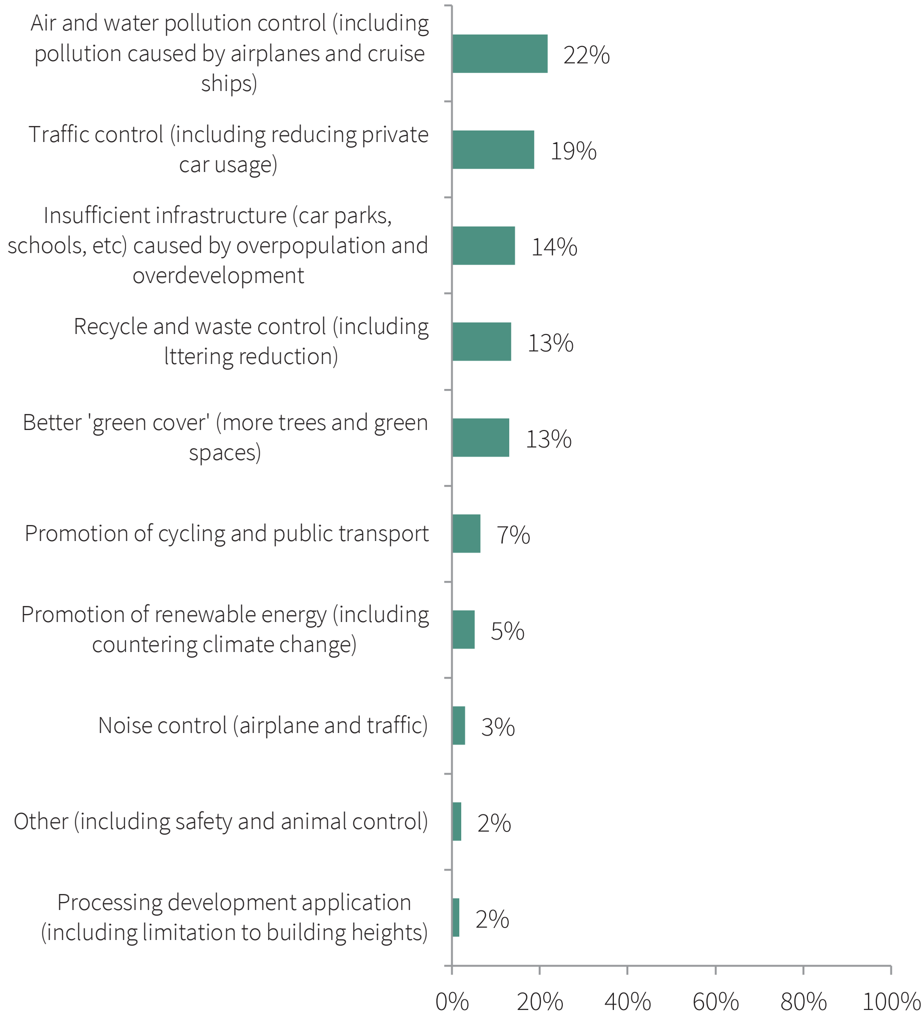
Q14. Please rate your level of agreement with the following statement: Leichhardt Council is committed to environmental sustainability



Base = 302

The majority (77%) of local residents agreed to this comment, and 71% stated they agreed, and 6% were strongly agreed. 15% were unsure about it.

Q15. What would you say are the two most important environmental issues in Leichhardt today?



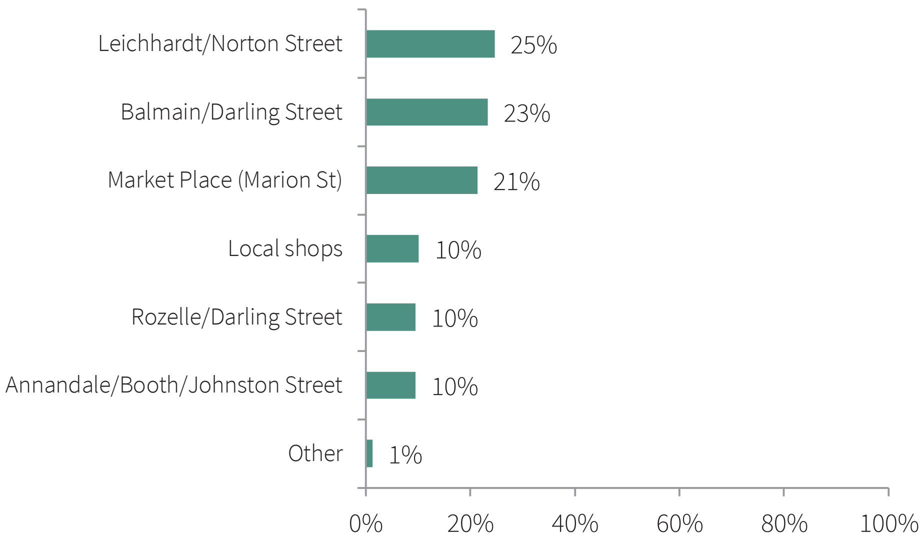
Base = 230

Air and water polution (22%) were residents greatest concern. Pollution included the quality deterioration of local drinking water and coastal waters, potentially caused by ships operating near White Bay and coal burning; also air pollution caused by airplanes passing through the council airspace.

Other issues were traffic control (19%) and insufficient local infrastructure (14%) due to overpopulation. Recycling and waste control (13%) and increase the local “green cover” (13%) were also important environmental issues to locals.

BUSINESS IN THE COMMUNITY

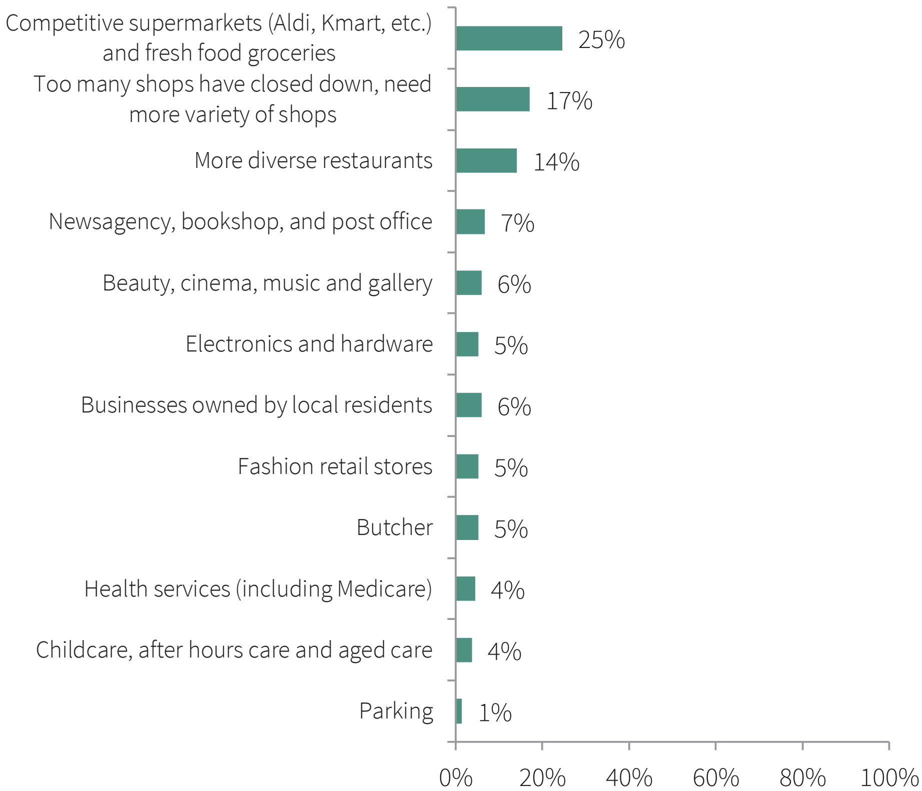
Q16. Which business or shopping area do you mostly visit in the municipality?



Base = 304

The three most visited town centres were Leichhardt/North Street, by 25% of the residents; Blamain/Darling Street, by 23% of the people; and 21% of the locals visited the Market Place at Marion Street.

Q17. Are there any businesses or services you would like to see in your local shopping area?

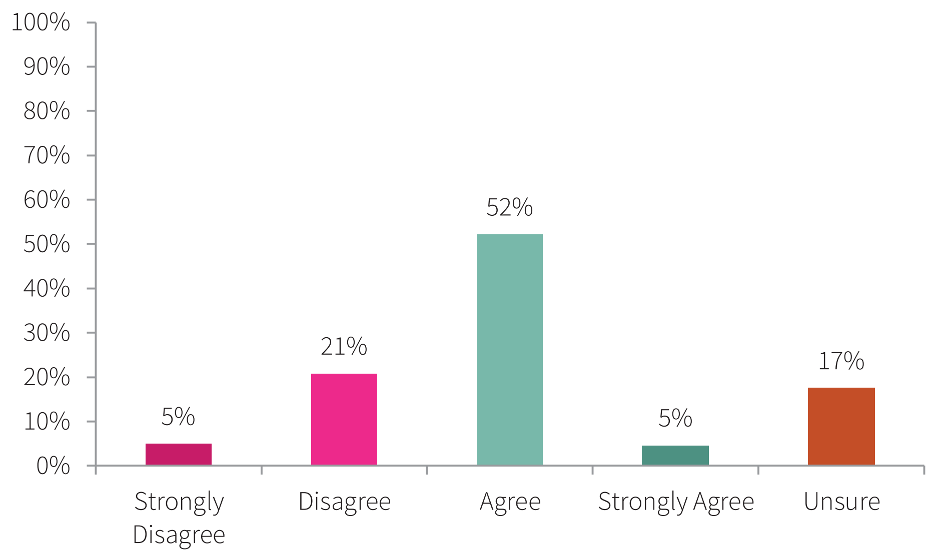


Base = 134

Twenty-five per cent (25%) of the council residents would like to see more supermarkets that could be competitive to Woolworths appearing in local districts. 17% felt there were too many shops closing down in recent years, and 14% would like to see more variety in restaurants.

SUSTAINABLE SERVICES AND ASSETS

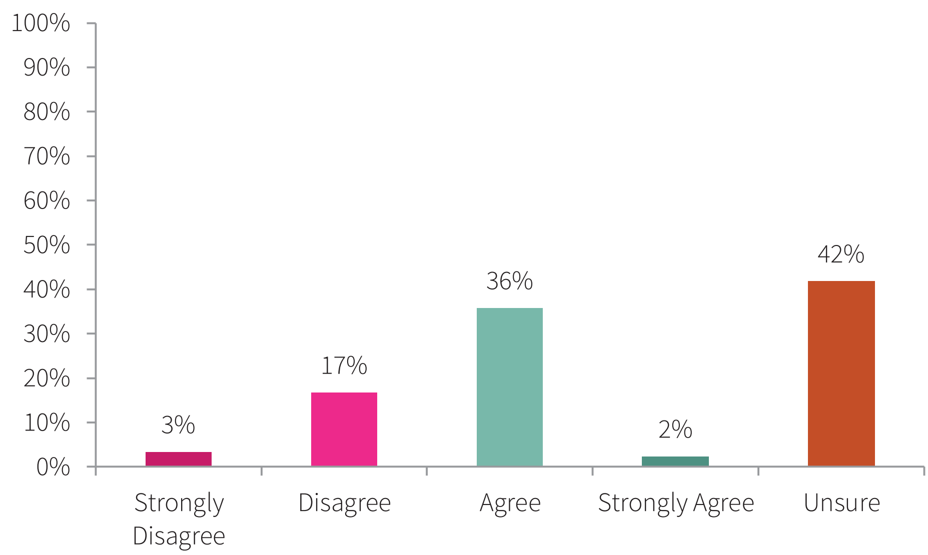
Q18. The rates and fees and charges you pay represent value for money.



Base = 303

Fifty-seven per cent (57%) of residents agreed that the fees charged represented value for money, 52% agreed, and 5% strongly agreed. Twenty six per cent (26%) disagreed, and 17% were unsure.

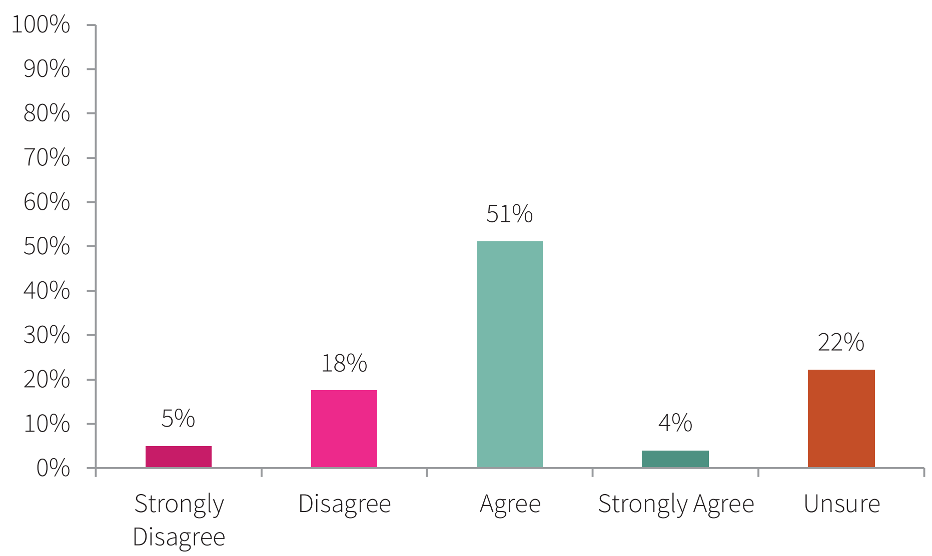
Q19. The Council manages its finances well.



Base = 299

Forty-two per cent (42%) of people were unsure about whether or not the council managed its finance well while 38% agreed and 20% disagreed.

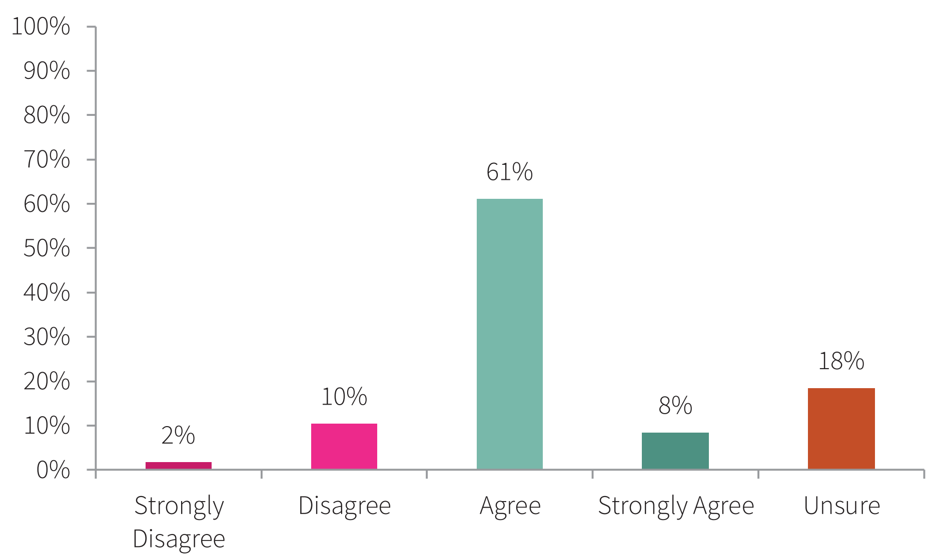
Q20. The Council does what it says it will do.



Base = 297

Fifty-five per cent (55%) of residents agreed that the council would do what it says it would do. Twenty-three per cent (23%) disagreed, and 22% were unsure.

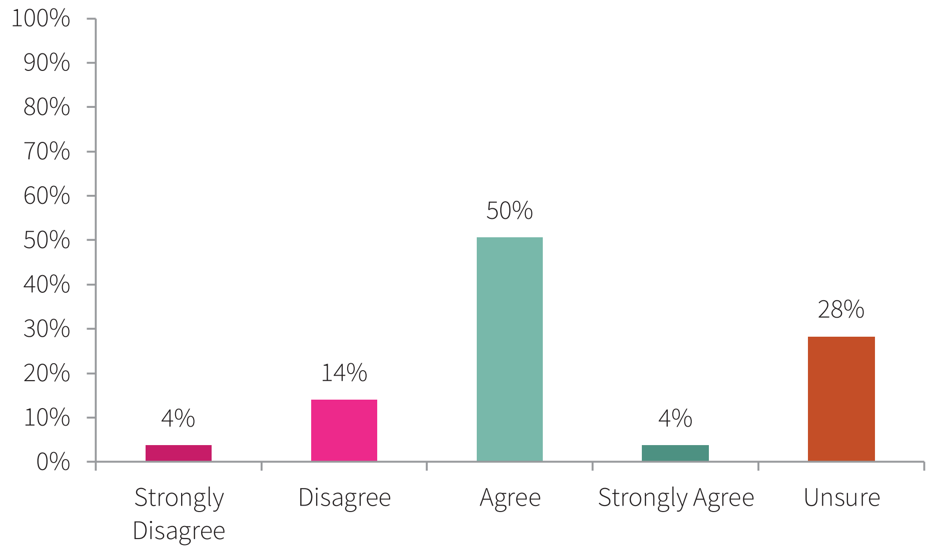
Q21. The Council encourages community participation and open government.



Base = 298

A total of 69% of the residents agreed that the council encouraged community participation and open government. 18% were unsure and 12% disagreed with this comment.

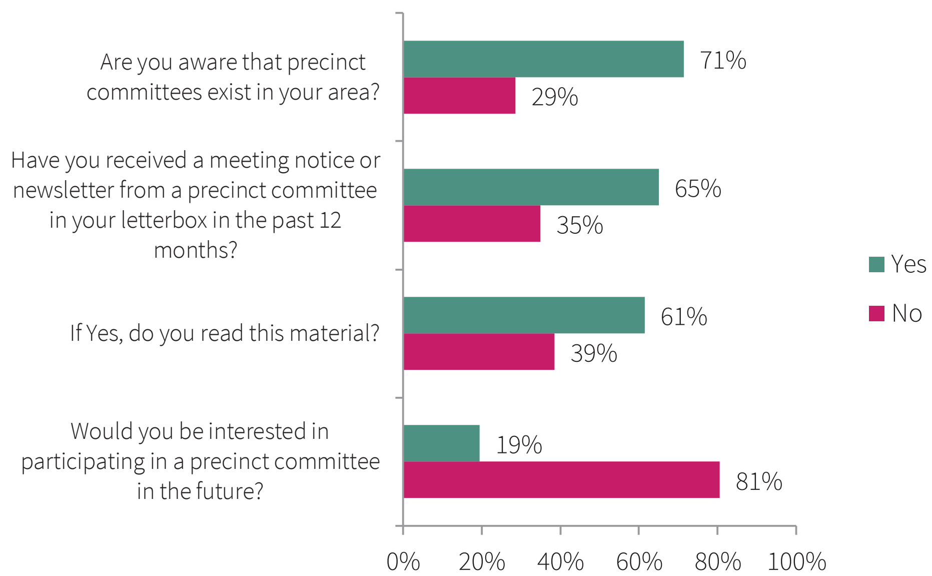
Q22. The Council is committed to meaningful consultation on all issues of concern to residents and businesses.



Base = 301

Over half (54%) of residents agreed that the council was committed to meaningful consultation, (50% agreed and 4% strongly agreed). Twenty-eight per cent (28%) were unsure, and 18% disagreed.

Q23. Leichhardt Council supports a system of Precinct Committees in the area. These Committees meet regularly and provide feedback to the community on Council issues and represent your area at Council meetings.

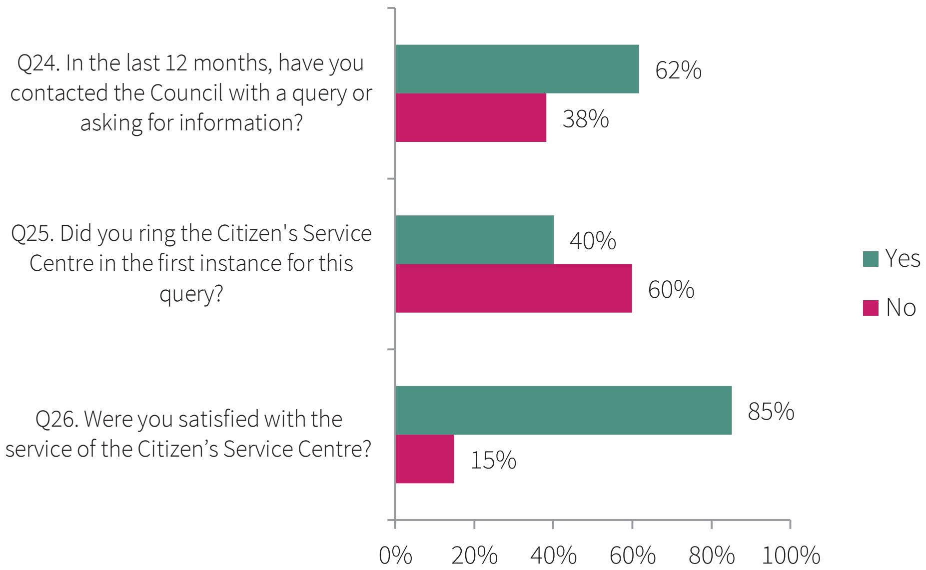


Base min = 293, Base max = 304

Seventy-one per cent (71%) of residents were aware the precinct committees existed, and 65% of residents received a meeting notice or newsletter from a precinct committee in the past 12 months.

Sixty one per cent (61%) of respondents would read the material if they received it. Nineteen per cent (19%) were interested in participating in the future.

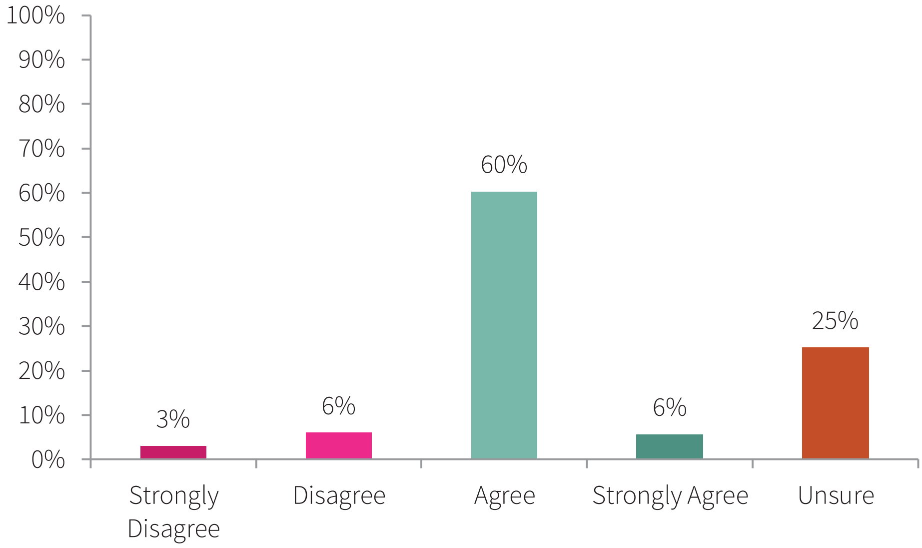
CUSTOMER SERVICE



Base min = 74, Base max = 303

Sixty-two per cent (62%) of the council population contacted the council with a query or asking for information. However, 60% did not ring the Citizen's Service Centre the first instance. Eighty five per cent (85%) of residents who called the Citizen's Service Centre were satisfied.

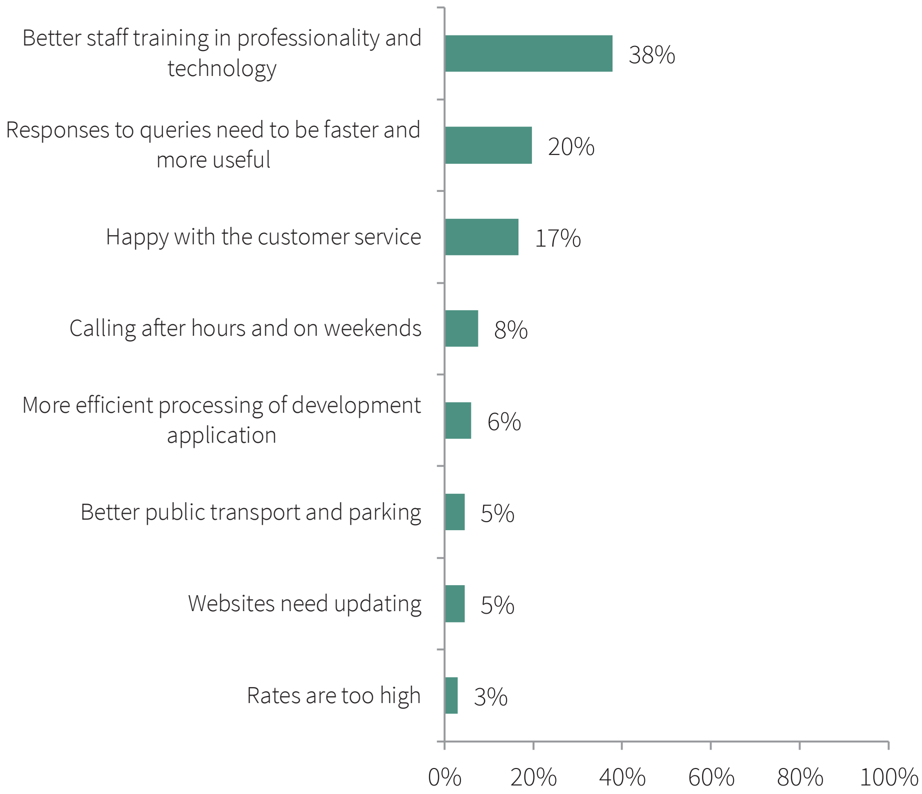
Q27. Please rate your level of agreement with the following statement: Leichhardt Council offers a high level of customer service.



Base = 302

About two thirds (66%) of the local residents agreed to this statement; among them 60% agreed, and 6% strongly agreed.

Q28. Do you have any suggestions as to how we could improve overall customer service?

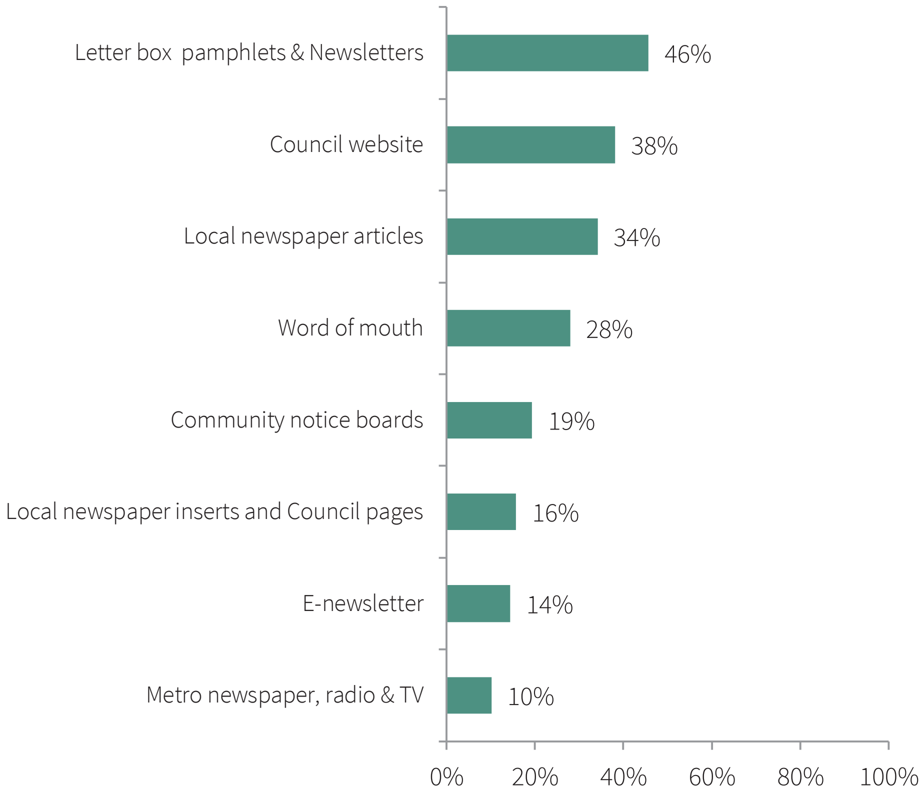


Base = 66

Thirty-eight per cent (38%) of residents who made suggestions for improvement, suggested the council should better train their staff in professional service and using technology. Twenty per cent (20%) said the council should improve the speed of response and the usefulness of responses, and 17% were generally satisfied with the customer service provided.

COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

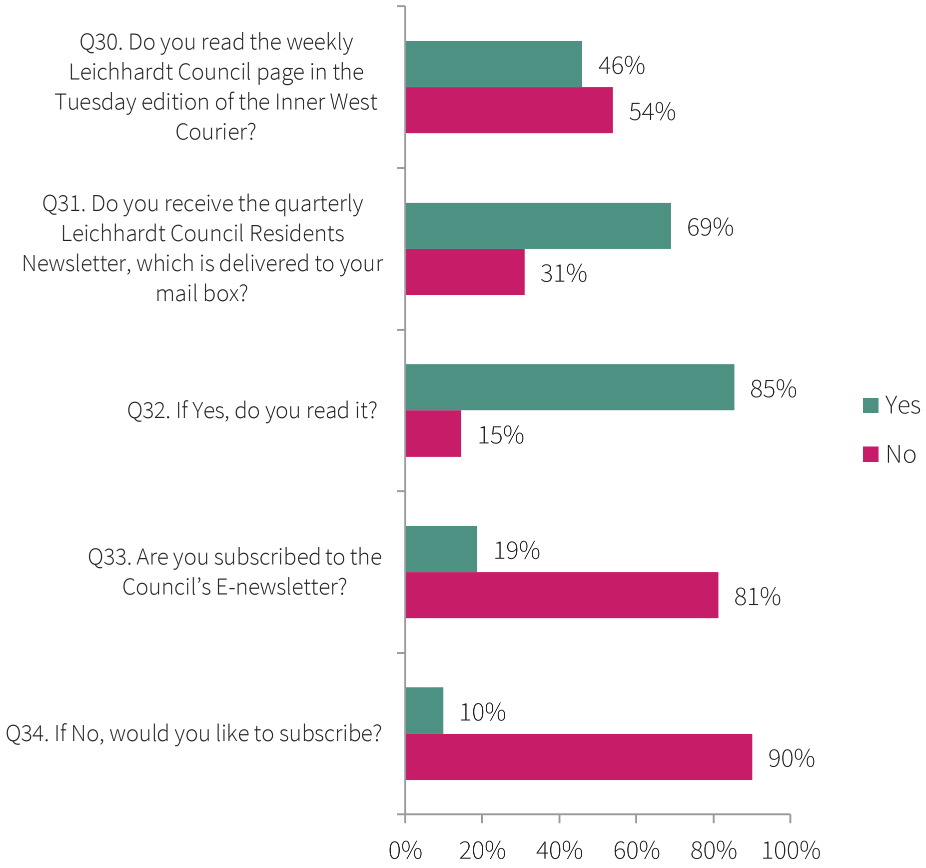
Q29. How do you find out about Leichhardt Council services/activities and community based information?



Base = 304

Among local residents, about half (46%) would like to be contacted via letter box pamphlets and newsletters for council services and other information. Thirty-eight per cent (38%) preferred using the council website, 34% would read the local newspaper articles, and 28% would like to be informed through word of mouth.

NOTE: Percentages in this question total greater than 100% as respondents could select more than one response.



Base min = 205, Base max = 304

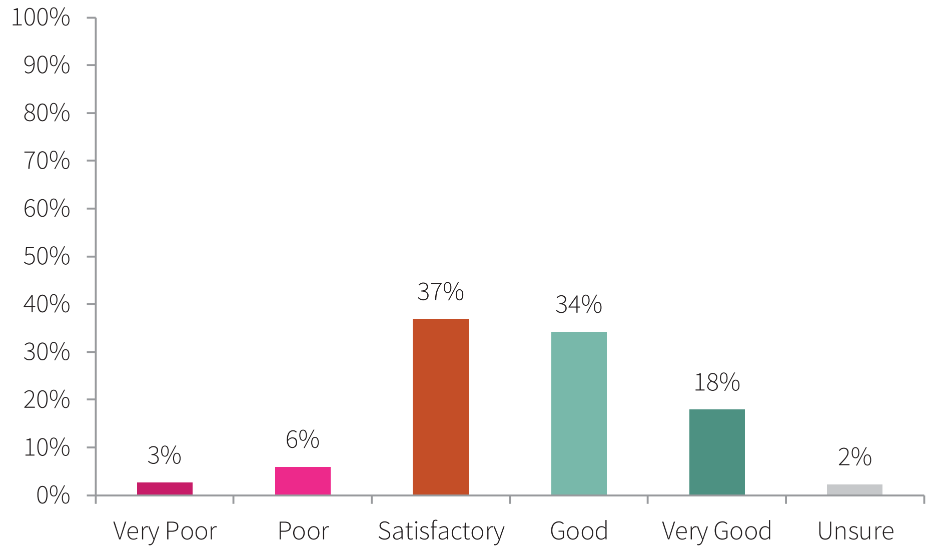
Less than half (46%) of the residents would read the weekly Leichhardt Council page in the Tuesday edition of the Inner West Courier.

Sixty-nine per cent (69%) of residents receive quarterly Leichhardt Council Residents Newsletter, and 85% would read it.

Eighty-one per cent (81%) of locals did not subscribe to the Council's E-newsletter, and among them, 90% would like to remain unsubscribed.

COUNCIL'S OVERALL PERFORMANCE

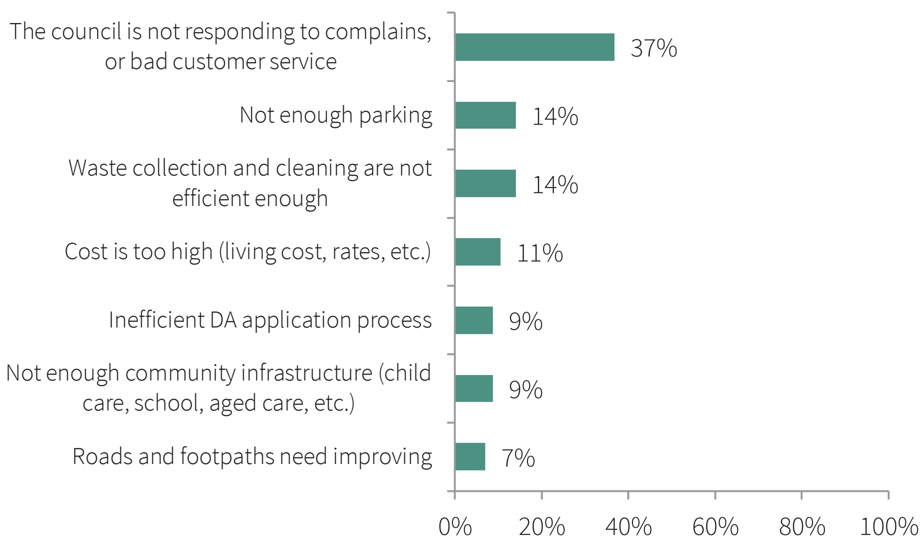
Q36. How would you rate Leichhardt Councils overall performance?



Base = 303

Eighty-nine per cent (89%) residents considered the council's service to be satisfactory or better (37% *satisfactory*, 34% *good*, and 18% *very good*).

Q37. If you were dissatisfied with any of the services provided by Council we have discussed in this survey, what were the reasons?

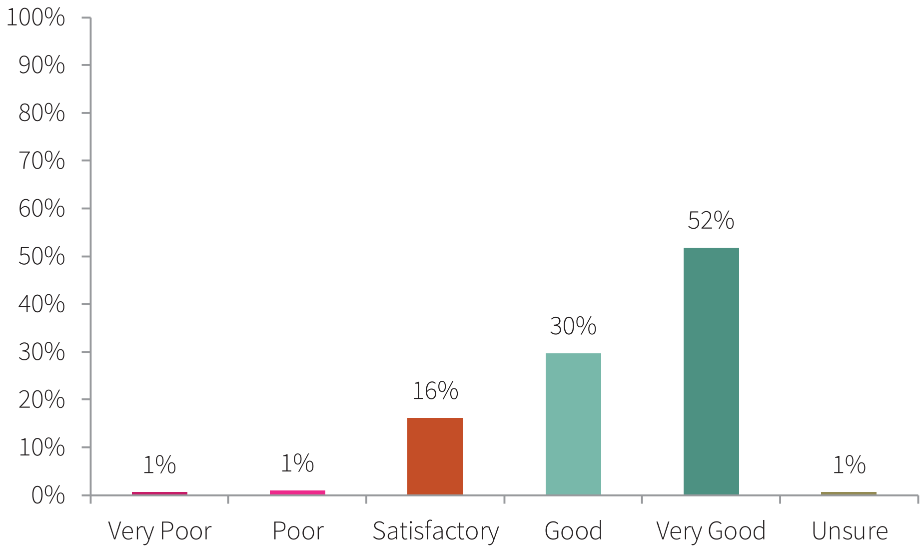


Base = 57

Among people who were not satisfied with the council's performance, thirty-seven per cent (37%) said that council did not respond to their complains, or the customer service was poor. Fourteen per cent (14%) were dissatisfied about insufficient parking, and another 14% felt dissatisfied about waste collection and cleanliness.

LEICHHARDT NOW

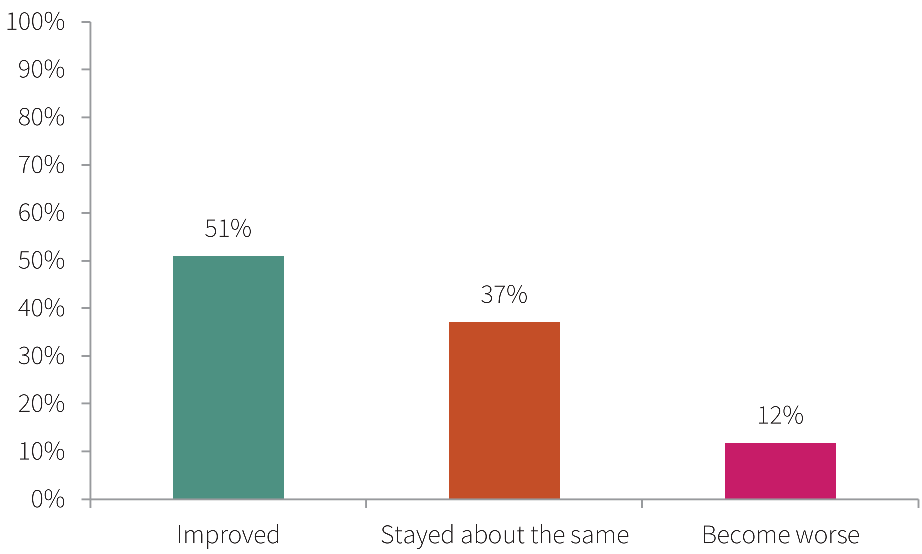
Q38. Overall, how would you rate the quality of life in the suburb you live in?



Ninety-eight per cent (98%) of residents felt their quality of life was equal or above satisfactory (52% *very good*, 30% *good*, and 16% *satisfactory*).

Base = 303

Q39. Considering your general quality of life and well-being, would you say that since you've been living in Leichhardt local government area, your perception of the local area has…



About half (51%) of the council population felt that their life quality had improved since living in the local area, 37% said it had stayed the same and 12% felt it became worse.

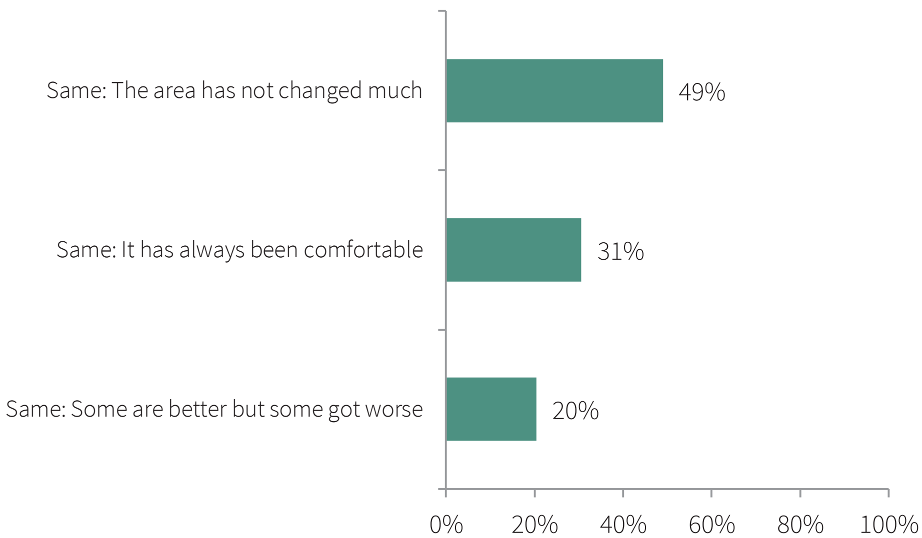
Base = 253

Q40.1. How? Please explain your answer. (Improved)

Base = 129

Main reasons residents felt the quality of life had improved incolpuded: better council management, a better local environment a better local community and better community infrastructure and cultural activities.

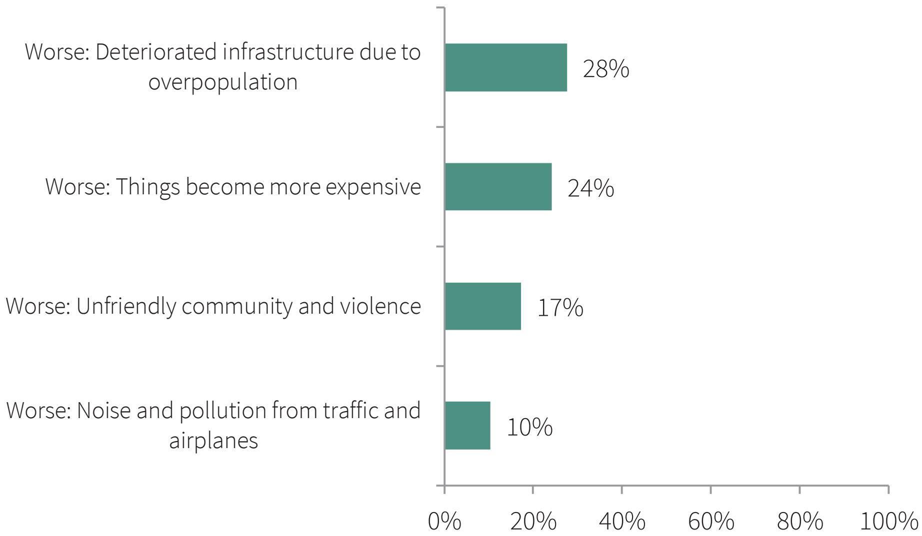
Q40.2. How? Please explain your answer. (Stayed about the same)



Base = 94

Among people who felt their life had stayed about the same about half (49%) did not notice much change in the area, and 31% said they have always been comfortable, hence there was no improvement.

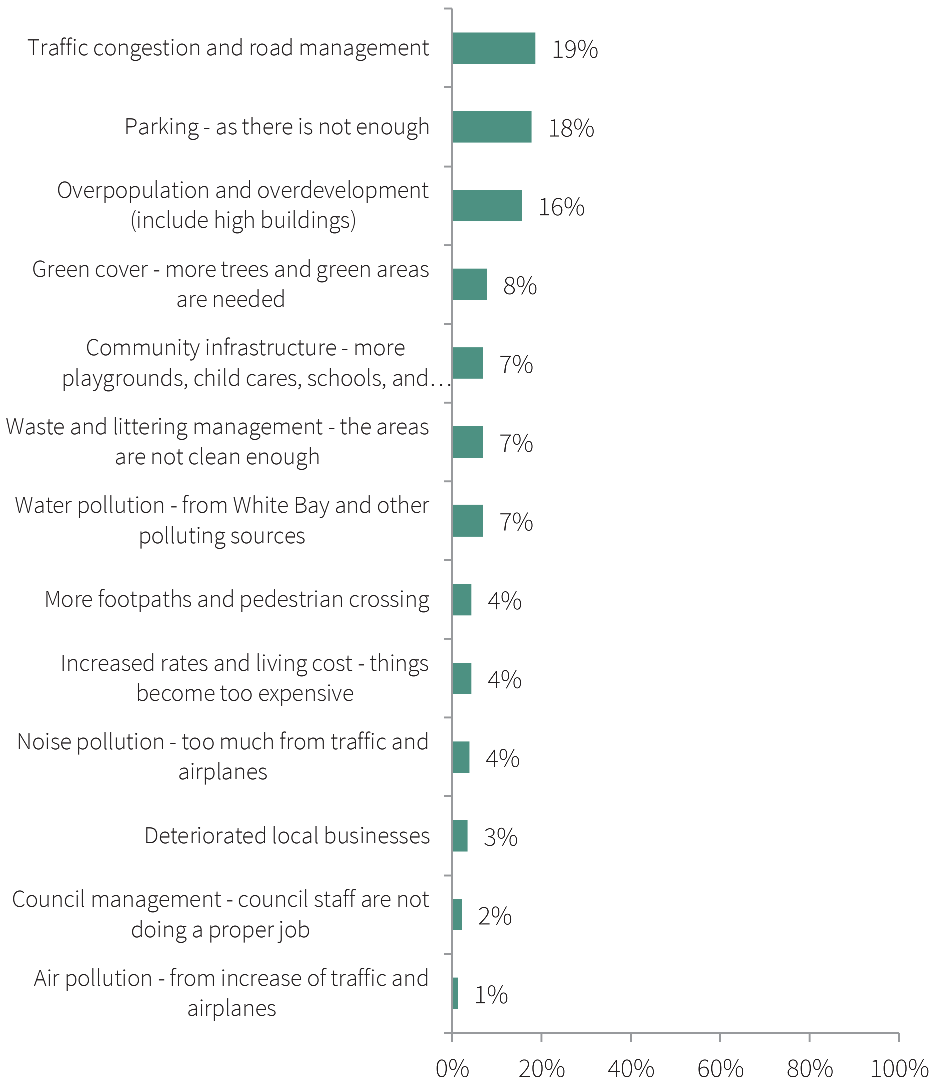
Q40.3. How? Please explain your answer. (Become worse)



Base = 30

People who felt quality of life had become worse cited perceived deterioration in infrastructure due to overpopulation, living costs were more expensive, a perception that the community was not as friendly as it used to be, and a perception of more violence.

Q41. As a resident of the Leichhardt Local Government Area, what current issues are you most concerned about? Why?



Base = 231

Nineteen per cent (19%) of locals considered traffic congestion and road management to be the most challenging issue, 18% said there was not enough parking, and 16% did not like overpopulation and overdevelopment of the local landscape, (including taller buildings).

Other issues include; a need for more trees and green areas (8%), a need more playgrounds and childcare facilities (7%), better waste and littering control (7%), and the pollution of local waters (7%).

Q42. Please list the 3 main issues you think Council should be lobbying for in order of priority

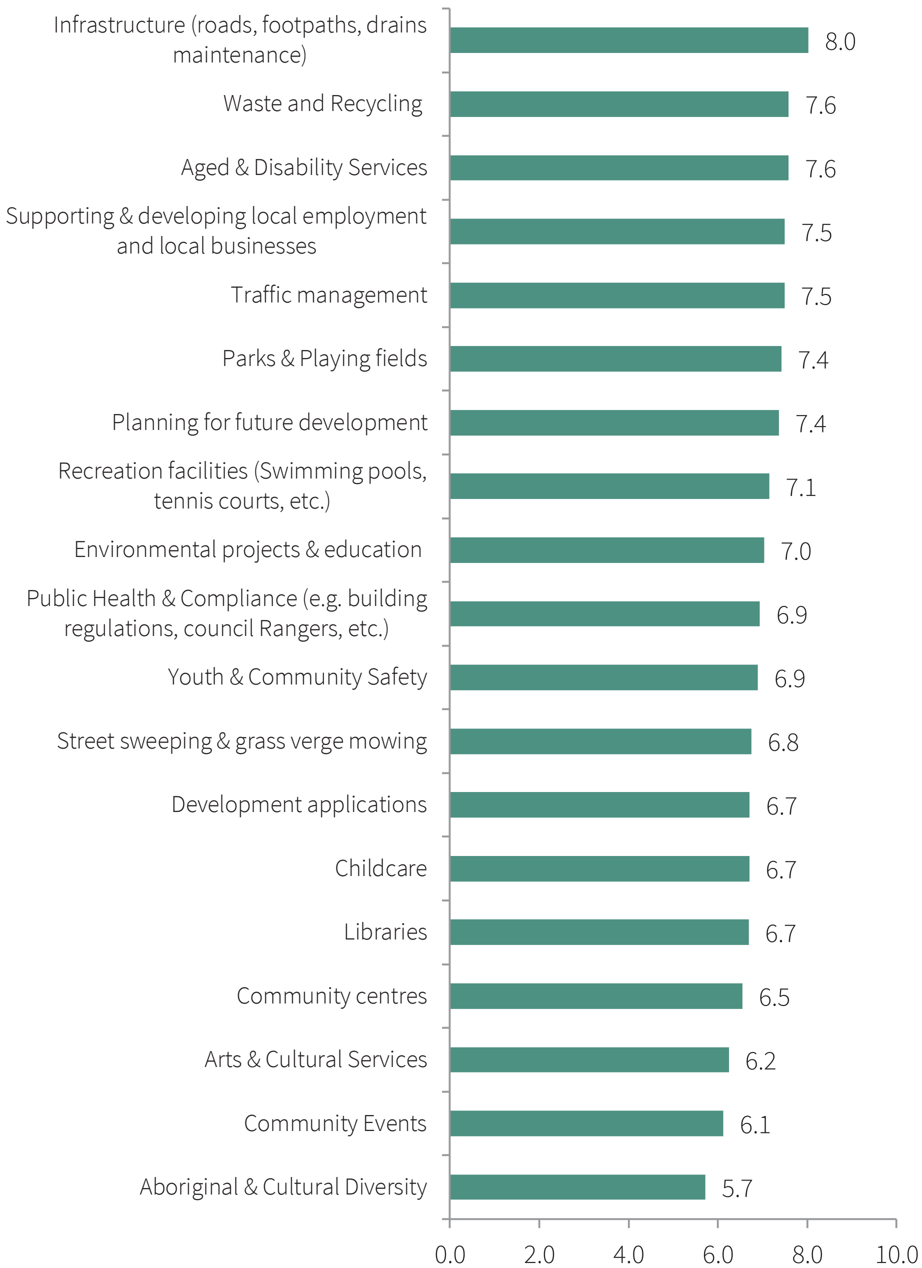
Respondents were asked to list their 3 main priorities in order of importance. In order to emphasise the relative priority order an issue ranked as 1st priority was given 3 points, an issue ranked 2nd was given 2 points and an issue ranked 3rd was given 1 point. The final position represents the order of importance of the issues for the community.

The top three issues were: 1. create more parking spaces; 2. have more green areas and public parkland; 3. control traffic congestion, and manage local roads more efficiently.

Base min = 127, Base max = 241

LEICHHARDT IN THE FUTURE

Q43. Council is currently in the process of setting its budget for the next four years. How would you rate each of the following council activities in terms of spending priorities? (1= least important & 10 = extremely important)

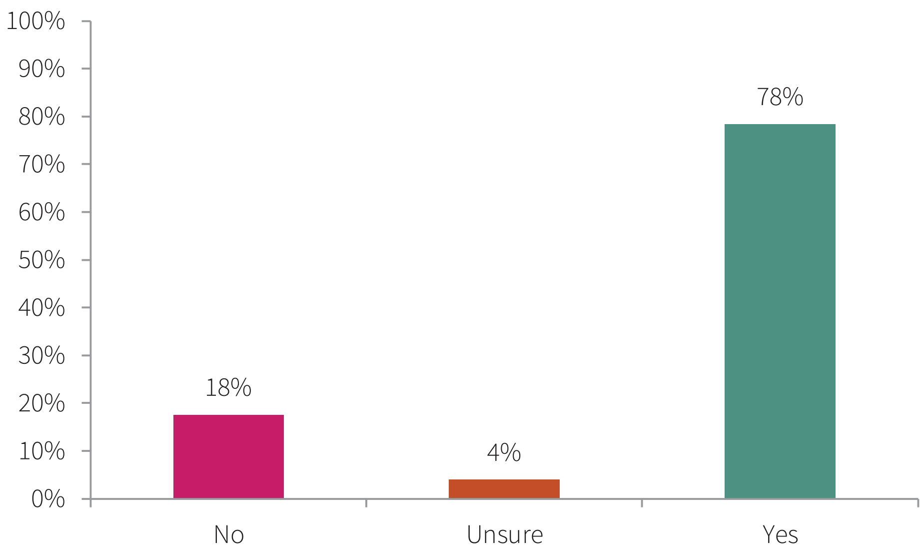


Base min= 290, Base max = 301

The most important five issues among residents were; infrastructure construction and maintenance (8.0), waste and recycling management (7.6), aged and disability services (7.6), support and development of local employment and businesses (7.5), and traffic management and congestion reduction (7.5).

The least important issues were; aboriginal & cultural diversity (5.7), community events (6.1), and arts & cultural services (6.2).

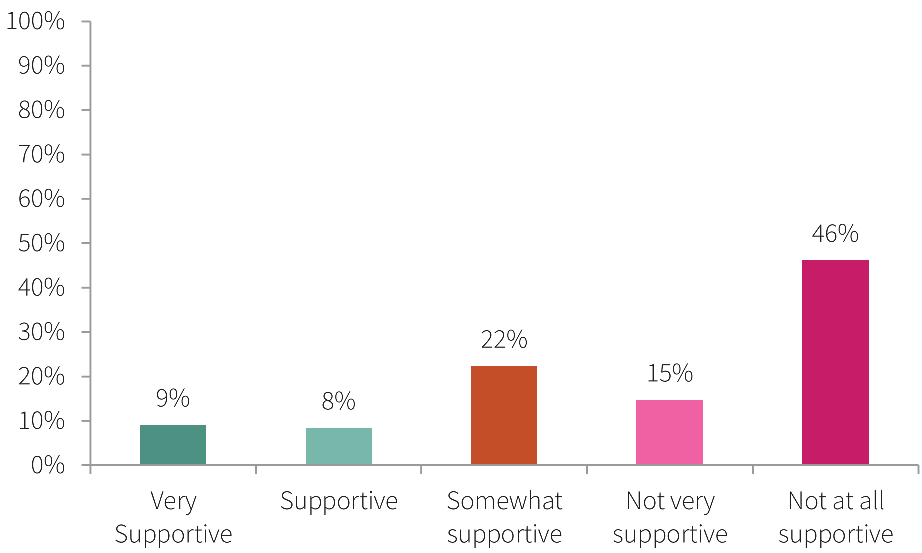
Q44. Are you aware of the State Government's Fit for the Future amalgamation plans for local councils?



Base = 301

Seventy-eight per cent (78%) of local residents were aware of the amalgamation plan proposed by the State Government; 18% were unaware.

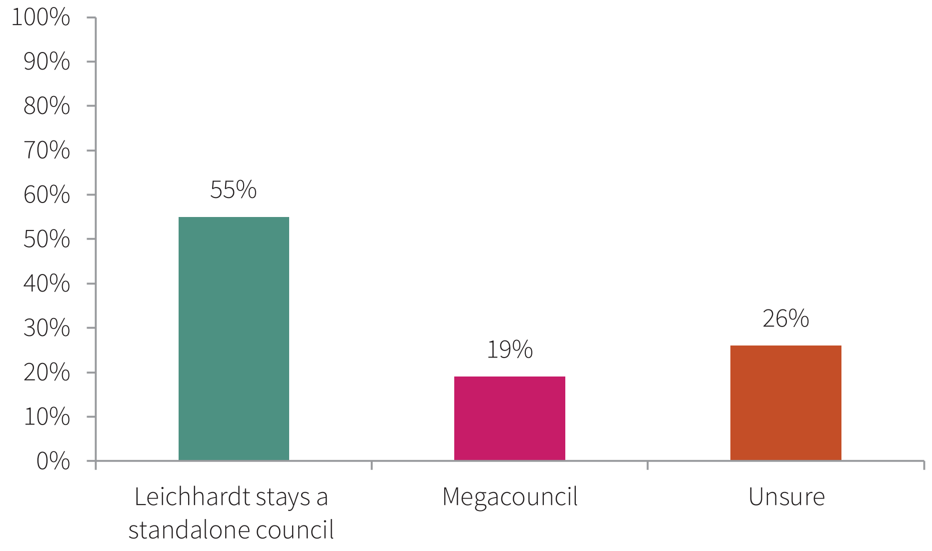
Q45. Do you support the State Government recommendation that Leichhardt Council be abolished and amalgamated with Ashfield, Burwood, Canada Bay, Marrickville and Strathfield to form a new Mega Council with a population of 342,000?



Base = 302

Nearly half (46%) of the residents stated they were not at all supportive towards the new Mega Council concept, and another 15% stated they were not very supportive. Twenty-two per cent (22%) were somewhat supportive and 17% were either supportive or very supportive.

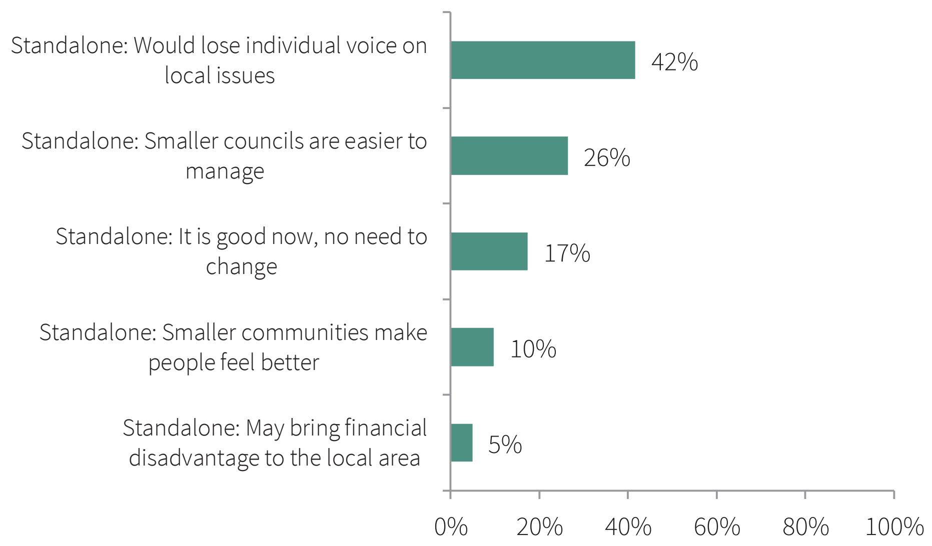
Q46. If you had to choose between an amalgamated Inner West Mega Council and Leichhardt remaining a standalone council, which would you choose?



Base = 304

Over half (55%) of the council residents stated that they preferred the Leichhardt Council to remain as a standalone council. 26% were unsure, and 19% said they preferred a Megacouncil.

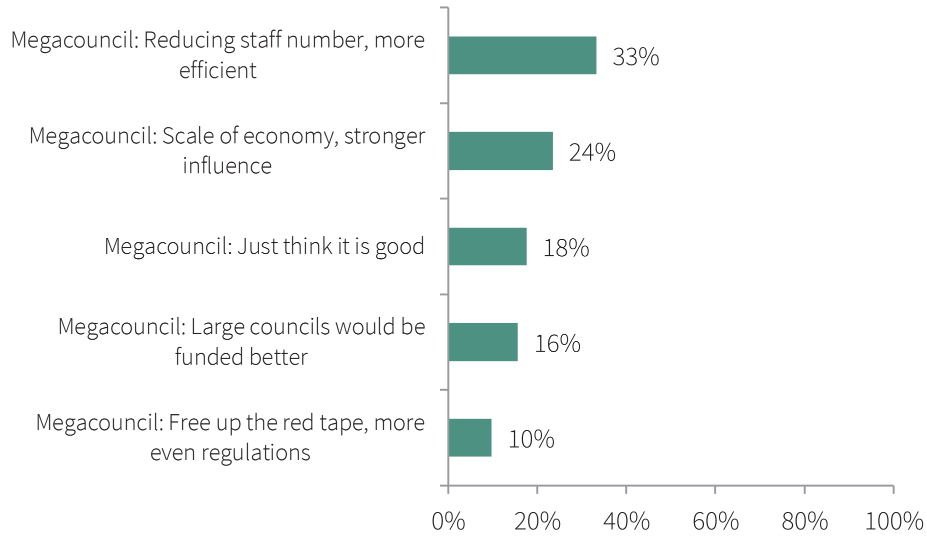
Q47.1. What are your reasons for preferring this option? (Standalone)



Base = 144

people who were in favour of remaining as a standalone council because cited three main reasons for their view. They (42%) feared they would lose individual voice on local issues, 26% thought a smaller council would be easier to manage, and 17% felt it was good enough as is so there is no need to change the system.

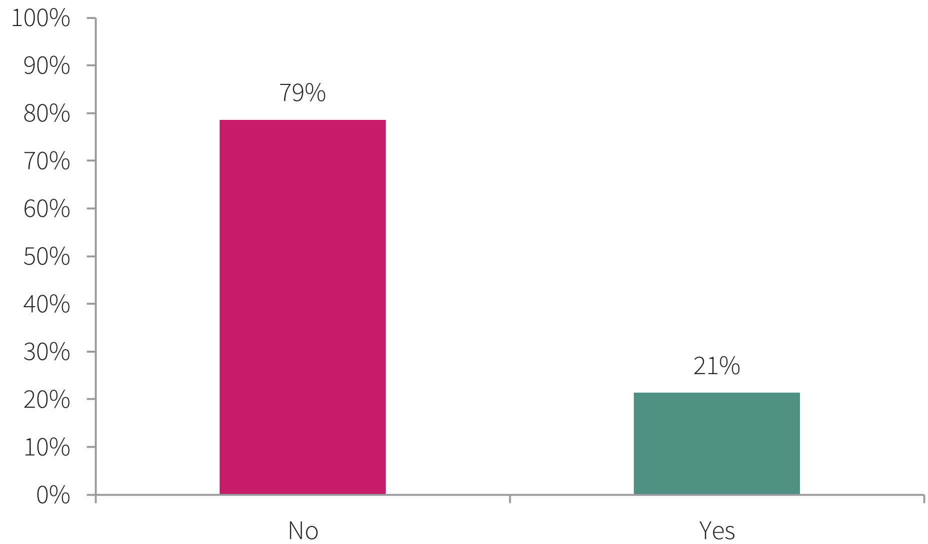
Q47.2. What are your reasons for preferring this option? (Megacouncil)



Base = 51

Residents who supported the Megacouncil believed; believed Megacouncil would reduce the number of public servants and make the management be more efficient (33%), 24% thought a scale of economy would apply, and people would have stronger influence over matters, and 18% just liked the idea generally.

Q48. Leichhardt Council conducts focus groups, forums and workshops from time to time to get community feedback on operational matters like Amalgamations and the Budget. Would you like to be notified about these?

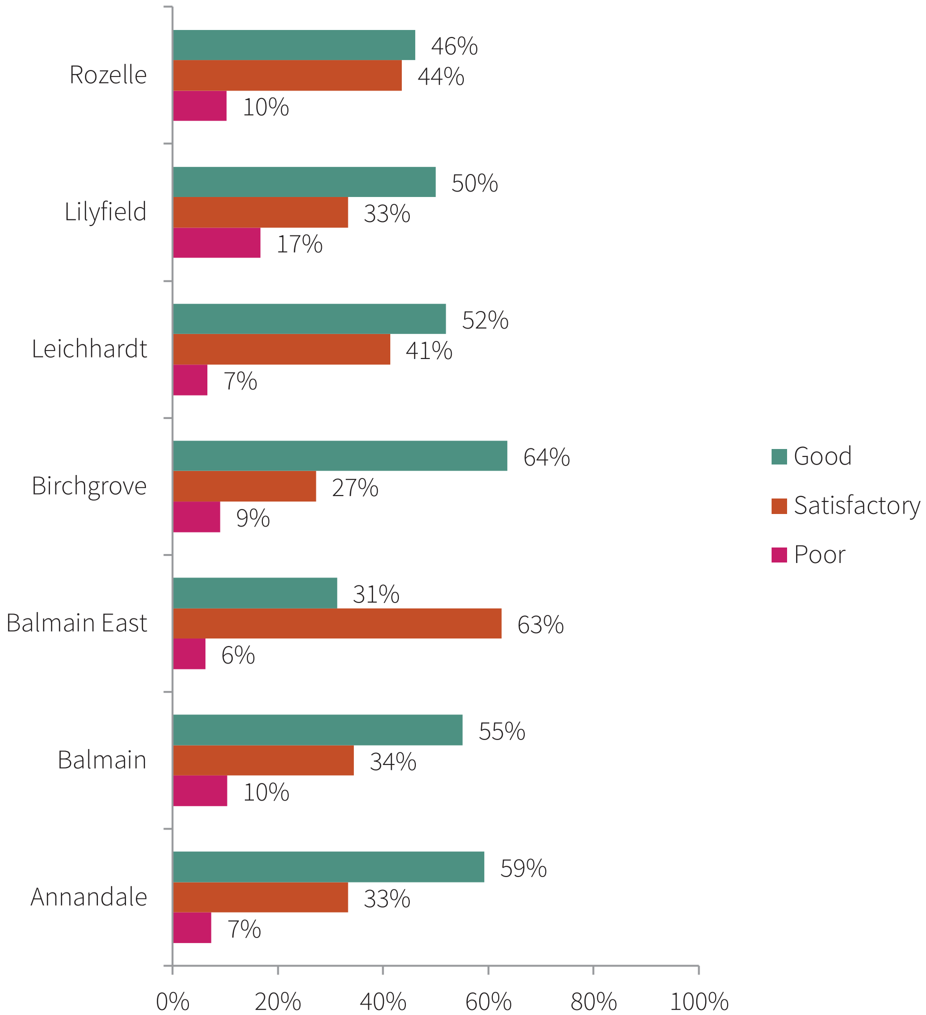


Base = 304

Twenty-one per cent (21%) would like to be contacted for further feedback.

BREAKDOWN ANALYSIS

Q36. How would you rate Leichhardt Councils overall performance? (By suburbs)

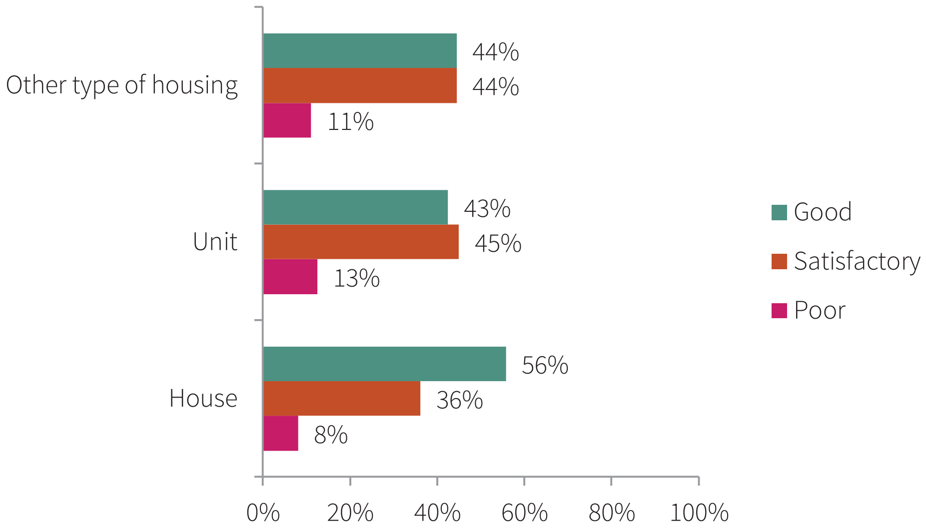


Base = 288

Birchgrove residents had the highest rate of "good" and "very good" ratings (64%) regarding council performance, and the second highest was Annandale (59%).

Both Balmain East (31%) and Rozelle (46%) had a "good" rating below the mid-point (50%), and Balmain East had the lowest rate of perceived "good" performance.

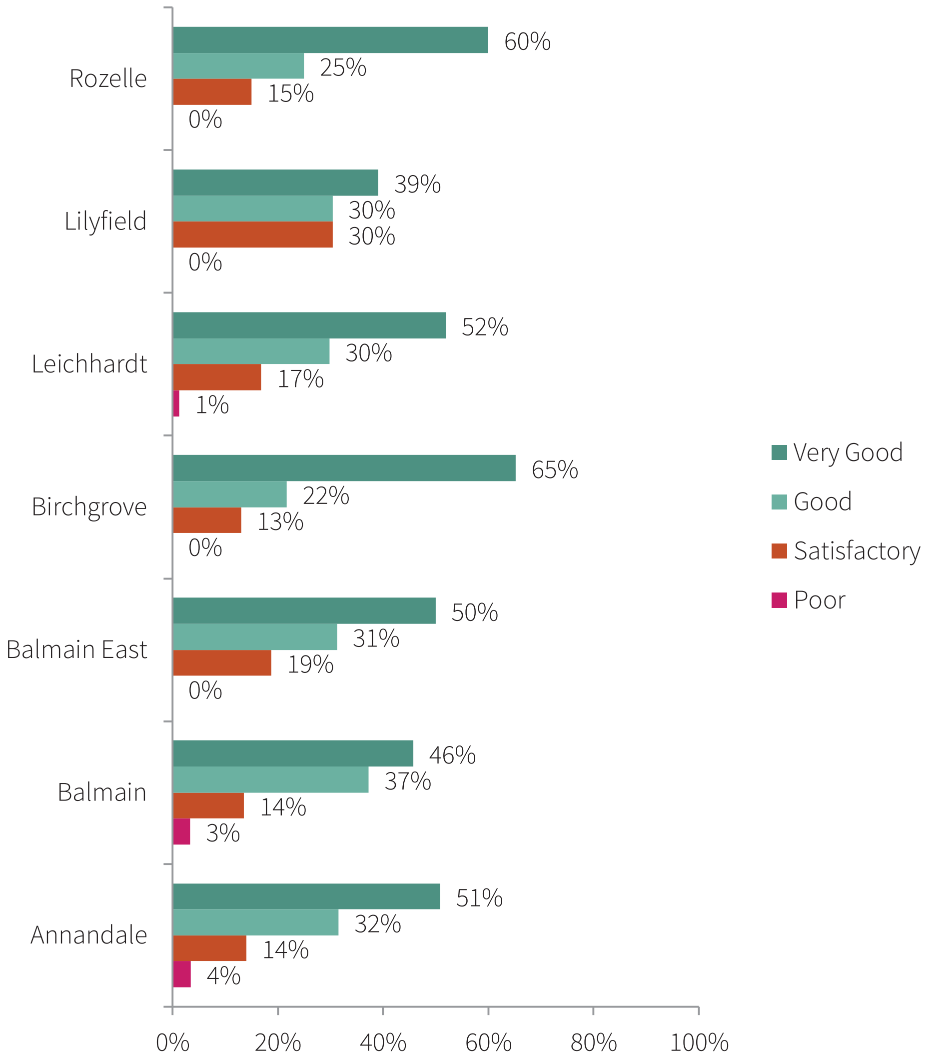
Q36. How would you rate Leichhardt Councils overall performance? (By types of housing)



Residents who lived in houses were more likely to rate Council performance as "good" or "very good" (56%), than those who lived in units (43%) and other type of housing (44%).

Base = 293

Q38. Overall, how would you rate the quality of life in the suburb you live in? (By suburbs)



Base = 295

Birchgrove residents again had the highest rate (65%) of *very good* responses about quality of life. Rozelle had the second highest value (60%).

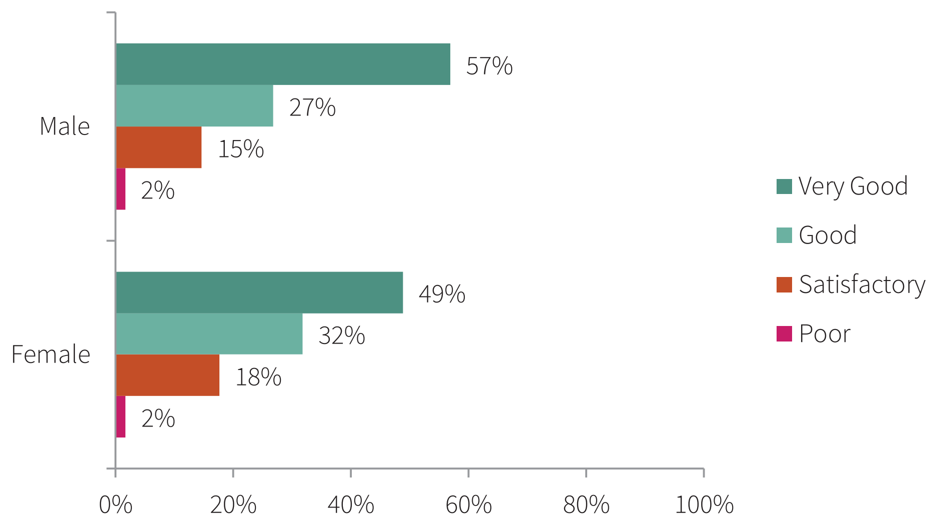
Lilyfield residents had the lowest rate (39%).

Q38. Overall, how would you rate the quality of life in the suburb you live in? (By age)

Base = 301

The more senior the citizens were, the more likely they would rate the quality of life as "very good". Those equal to or over 60 years old had the highest "very good" rating (57%), and people who were between 20-29 had the lowest (25%).

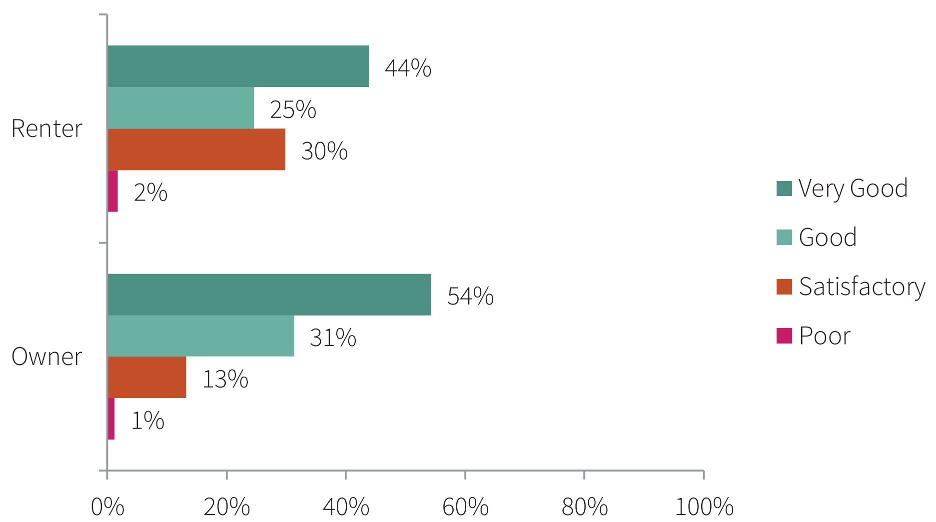
Q38. Overall, how would you rate the quality of life in the suburb you live in? (By gender)



Male residents were more likely to rate quality of life in their area as "very good" (57%) than female residents (49%).

Base = 299

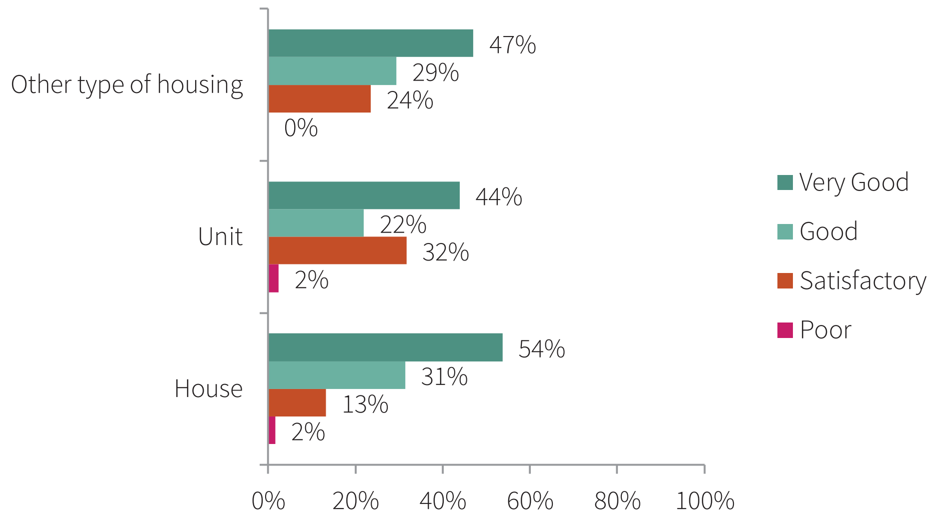
Q38. Overall, how would you rate the quality of life in the suburb you live in? (By home ownership)



Homeowners generally felt better (54% very good and 31% good) than renters (44% very good and 25% good) regarding quality of life.

Base = 300

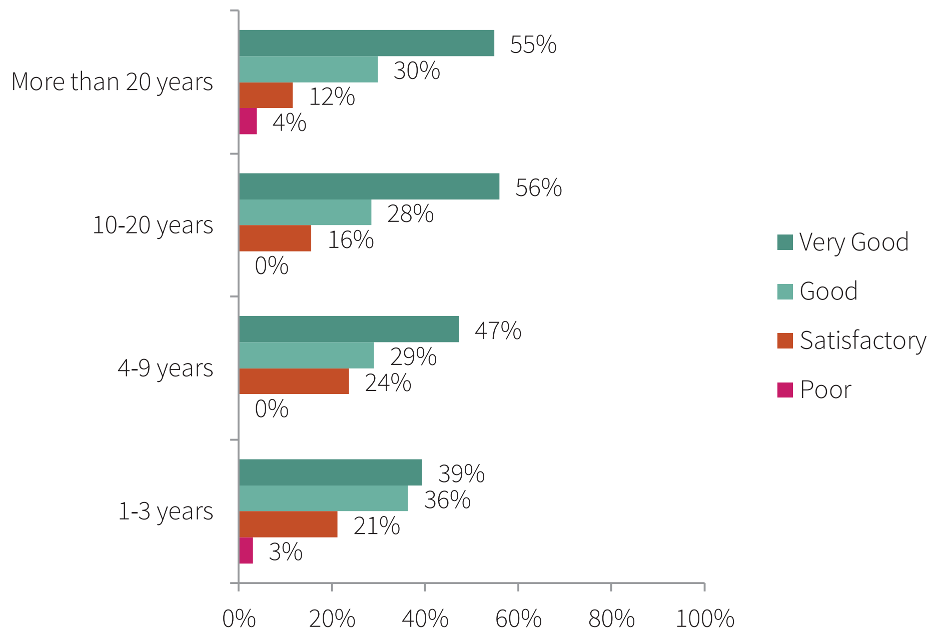
Q38. Overall, how would you rate the quality of life in the suburb you live in? (By housing types)



People who lived in houses generally rated quality of life higher (54% very good and 31% good), than residents who lived in units (44% very good and 22% good), and other type of housing (47% very good and 29% good).

Base = 300

Q38. Overall, how would you rate the quality of life in the suburb you live in? (By years of living)



Residents who lived longer in the area (10+ years) considered the quality of life better than residents who lived less than 10 years. People who lived between 1-3 years had the lowest rating of "very good" (39%), compared to those with more than 20 years (55%) and between 10-20 years (56%).

Base = 301

Leichhardt Municipal Council Community Survey 2014-2015

This report was produced by Piazza Research Pty Ltd Ph (02)6282 4963, for the Leichhardt Municipal Council. Lead Consultants: Grant Piazza, Dr Lu Jin

Project reference number: #LEHA180315

WHAT COULD HAPPEN IF LEICHHARDT COUNCIL IS FORCED TO AMALGAMATE?

MAYOR'S MESSAGE: LEICHHARDT COUNCIL AT RISK OF BEING AMALGAMATED – HAVE YOUR SAY

Leichhardt Council is a strong and financially sound council both now and into the future. This has been confirmed by the Government's own TCorp analysis. Nevertheless we are at significant risk of being amalgamated. The amalgamation of Leichhardt into a mega-council would mean the loss of accessible and meaningful local representation; significantly higher costs; higher rates for many; a potential loss of services; the selling off of council facilities; the loss of many local jobs and the loss of local advocacy on behalf of local residents and businesses. The timeline of the Fit for the Future's plans to amalgamate councils is very fast and could see amalgamations start in the later part of 2015. If you want to have a say on the future of Leichhardt Council you need to make sure your voice is heard on amalgamations now and I strongly encourage you to complete the attached survey or to do the survey online.

Cr Rochelle Porteous
Mayor of Leichhardt Council

BIGGER WON'T BE BETTER

The State Government's new "Fit for the Future" is aimed at driving council amalgamations across NSW. The NSW Government wants to reduce the number of Sydney Metropolitan councils from 41 to just 18.

Leichhardt is at serious risk of being amalgamated into a mega-council with Canada Bay, Marrickville, Ashfield, Burwood and Strathfield.

If this happened the population of your local council would go from its current 57,000 to over 342,000, and our borders would stretch from the Airport to Homebush and Glebe.

Leichhardt Council, along with City of Canada Bay, Ashfield, Burwood and Marrickville Councils, has had research done by independent experts Morrison Low to develop shared modelling that identifies what the proposed amalgamation could mean in terms of rates, service delivery and ability to have a voice in local decision making. Strathfield elected not to be a part of the project.

On the evidence presented by these experts, Leichhardt Council believes that we can and should remain a standalone council.

LEICHHARDT COUNCIL WILL BE FIT FOR THE FUTURE

Leichhardt Council is opposed to any amalgamation. We are now, and will remain, a financially sustainable council.

State Government has outlined a number of benchmarks that councils need to meet to be considered 'Fit for the Future.' They are based around financial sustainability and asset maintenance. Council currently meets five of the seven benchmarks. We will be able to meet the two remaining benchmarks over the next five years.

The only requirement we cannot fulfil is the arbitrary scale and capacity criteria, which appears to show that councils must have a population above 250,000.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information and a copy of the full Morrison Low Independent Shared Modelling Report is available at: www.leichhardt.nsw.gov.au/amalgamations – and at www.noforcedamalgamations.com.au

HOW CAN I HAVE MY SAY?

- Go to www.surveymonkey.com/s/Amalgamations
- Fill out and return the Survey you will find in this brochure
- Join the discussion at www.facebook.com/LeichhardtCouncil
- Make a written submission email leichhardt@lmc.nsw.gov.au or post to the General Manager and Mayor, Leichhardt Council PO Box 45, Leichhardt NSW 2040

THE OPTIONS

The Morrison Low Shared Modelling project investigated four different outcomes for Leichhardt Council:

- Remaining as a Standalone Council
- Leichhardt Council ceases to exist and is amalgamated into a mega-council of Leichhardt, Ashfield, Marrickville, Strathfield; Burwood and City of Canada Bay.
- Leichhardt ceases to exist but is part of a smaller amalgamation (eg with three or four councils instead of six)
- Shared services (councils shared services)

THE BENCHMARKS

The State Government has set seven benchmarks that councils must meet in order to be "Fit for the Future". All of these benchmarks are financially based.

Council considers that other benchmarks are important to our residents, such as

- Social impacts, like communities of interest, local identity, representation;
- Environmental impacts, like the amount of green space per resident, waste diversion, urban design and tree canopy;
- Economic impacts on our local businesses.
- Governance impacts, like policy alignment and organisational cultures.

THE BENCHMARKS – HOW DO WE STACK UP?

Seven Fit for the Future Benchmarks	At day one	After five years	After ten years
Leichhardt Municipal Council	✗	✓	✓
Inner West Mega Council	✗	✗	✗

For more detail, please go to www.leichhardt.nsw.gov.au/Amalgamations

SCALE AND CAPACITY?

The State Government panel has recommended that all councils must satisfy a "Scale and Capacity" requirement before it can begin to address other benchmarks.

This appears to mean that councils must have a population above 250,000.

This is an arbitrary number designed to make it impossible for almost any individual NSW council to meet all the criteria. Leichhardt Council believes that the State Government must accept that councils of all different sizes can be financially sustainable in their own right and fit for the future.

TALK TO STAFF

Talk to our Council staff to find out more:

Sunday 29 March
Annandale Village Centre, 10am-2pm

Sunday 29 March
Classics at Callan Park, 4-7pm

Saturday 11 April
Orange Grove Markets Rozelle, 9am-1pm

Sunday 12 April
Loyalty Square Balmain, 10am-2pm

Saturday 18 April
Market Town Leichhardt, 10am-2pm

PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday 22 April, 6.00pm
Balmain Town Hall.
Talk to the consultants, the Mayor and key council staff.

SEPT 2014	MAR-JUNE 2015	MAY 2015	JUNE 2015	OCT 2015	SEP 2016
NSW Government announced Fit for the Future Amalgamation Plan	Council to consult with the community and accept feedback.	Council's response to Fit for the Future to be exhibited and considered.	Council must respond to Fit for the Future.	New boundaries to be determined by State Government.	Local Government Elections based on new council boundaries.

LEICHHARDT IS SUSTAINABLE

Leichhardt Council as a standalone council performs significantly better than a mega council in terms of financial sustainability.

Leichhardt Council as a standalone council meets five of the government's seven benchmarks now, all seven in five years' time.

YOUR RATES IN A MEGA COUNCIL

It is difficult to predict exactly what would happen to rates under a Mega Council, but the model has given Council a good idea of what to expect.

Residential properties with a high land value will face a significant rate rise.

While the modelling shows business rates would likely fall, the modelling has not factored in rate increases required to make the Mega Council fit for the future.

It is inevitable that rates will rise across the board.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

The State Government proposed Mega Council, with a combined population of 342,000 will:

- not meet the benchmarks now and will not in five years or even in ten years.
- meet only four of the seven State Government benchmarks after ten years compared to Leichhardt meeting all seven.
- likely force substantial rate rises on owners with high property values;
- need to decide whether to bring all service levels up to the highest benchmark – increasing costs – or lowering service levels.
- decrease representation, with one councillor for every 22,413 Leichhardt LGA residents, instead of the one for every 4,692 we have currently.
- cost at least $70 million more than the $16.5 million offered by the State Government as an "incentive" to amalgamate

For a large print version of this information or to hear it read to you, please go to www.leichhardt.nsw.gov.au/Amalgamations

YOUR REPRESENTATION

Council	Population	Current Representation (population / councillor)	Approx number of councillors in mega Council
Ashfield	44,175	3,638	1.97
Burwood	35,298	4,953	1.57
City of Canada Bay	84,906	9,133	3.79
Leichhardt	57,266	4,692	2.56 (12 currently)
Marrickville	82,523	6,087	3.68
Strathfield	38,358	5,381	1.71

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FIT FOR THE FUTURE SURVEY

Please let us know what you think about the proposal to amalgamate Leichhardt Council with other inner west councils.

If you would like to receive further information about the amalgamation proposal, and Council's submission to the Fit for the Future, please provide your email address:

____

If you would also like to receive further information about other council news, please tick here: ☐

In late 2014 the State Government released its Fit for the Future program, which recommends amalgamations of local government areas throughout the state to reduce the number of councils.

Are you aware of the State Government's Fit for the Future amalgamation plans?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Unsure

Are you aware of the shared modelling about amalgamations carried out by Leichhardt Council with City of Canada Bay, Ashfield, Burwood and Marrickville Councils?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Unsure

Would you like more information?

☐ Yes
☐ No

There is a strong risk that Leichhardt Council will be forced to merge with the City of Canada Bay and Ashfield, Burwood, Marrickville and Strathfield Councils to form a new Mega Council with a population of around 342,000.

Do you feel that Leichhardt Council would lose its identity if this was to happen?

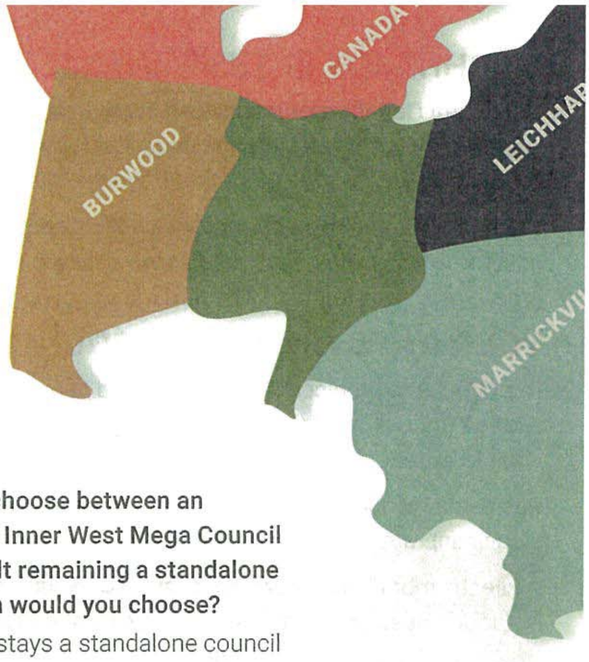
☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Unsure

Do you think you would have more of a say or less of a say in how our local area develops under a merged council?

☐ More of a say
☐ Less of a say
☐ Unsure

Do you support the State Government recommendation that Leichhardt Council be abolished and amalgamated with Ashfield, Burwood, Canada Bay, Marrickville and Strathfield to form a new Mega Council?

☐ Very supportive
☐ Supportive
☐ Somewhat supportive
☐ Not very supportive
☐ Not at all supportive



If you had to choose between an amalgamated Inner West Mega Council and Leichhardt remaining a standalone council, which would you choose?

☐ Leichhardt stays a standalone council
☐ Megacouncil
☐ Unsure

If you want Leichhardt to stay a standalone council what are your reasons for preferring this?

____

If you want Leichhardt to merge into an Inner West Mega Council, what are your reasons for preferring this?

____

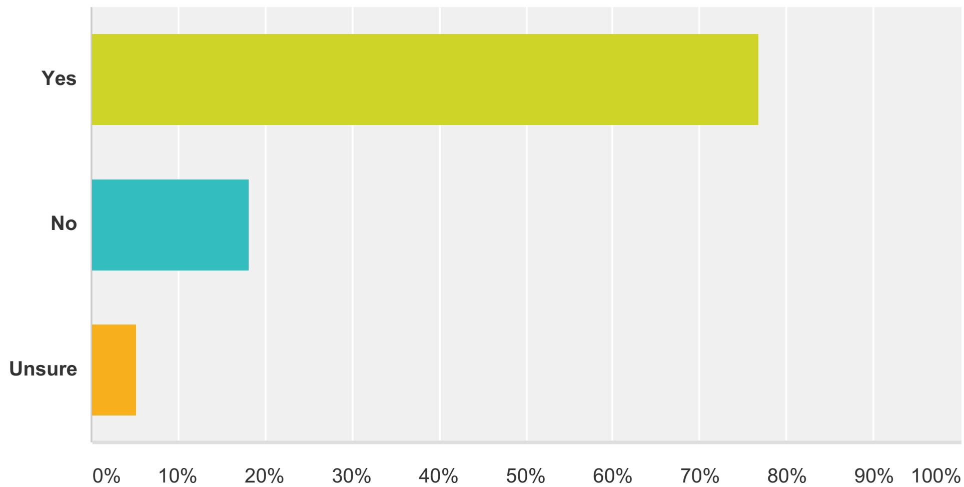
Any other comments

____

Please detach this page, fold and secure, and mail it back to us.
You can also drop it into Council or any of our libraries, pools or information stands.

Q1 Are you aware of the State Government's Fit for the Future amalgamation plans?

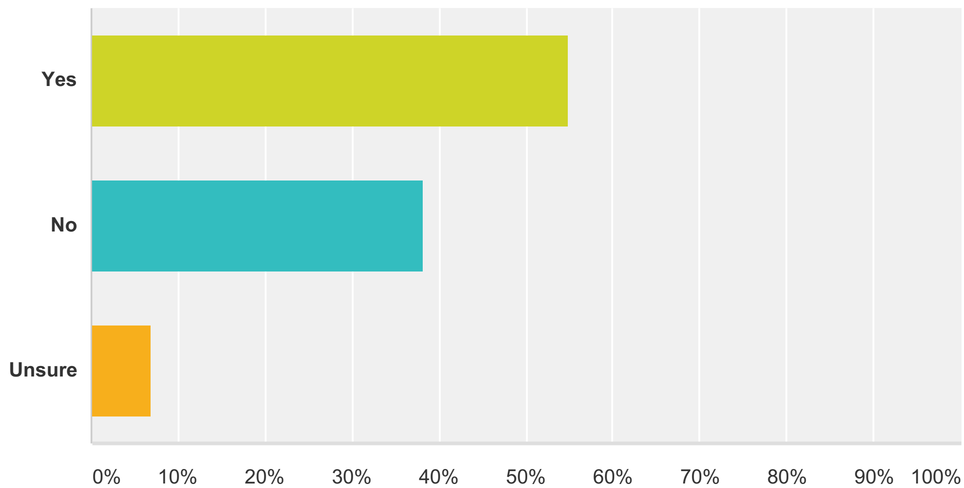
Answered: 1,378 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	**76.78%**	1,058
No	**18.07%**	249
Unsure	**5.15%**	71
Total		**1,378**

Q2 Are you aware of the shared modelling regarding amalgamations carried out by Leichhardt Council together with City of Canada Bay, Ashfield, Burwood and Marrickville Councils?

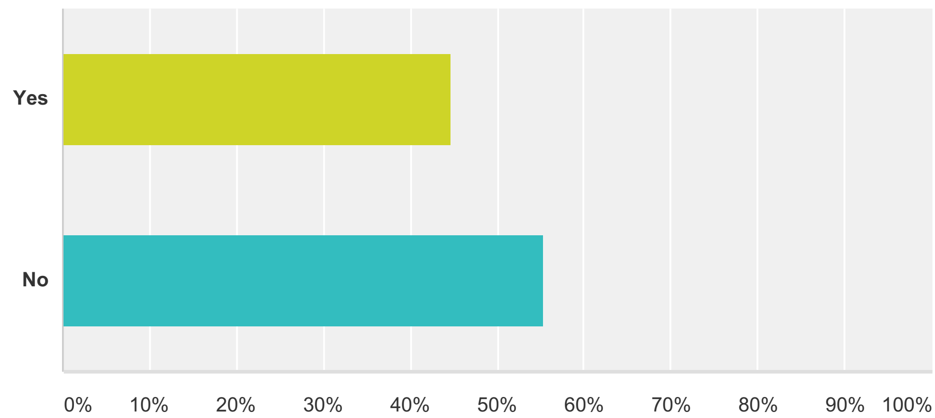
Answered: 1,378 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	**54.86%**	756
No	**38.24%**	527
Unsure	**6.89%**	95
Total		**1,378**

Q3 Would you like more information?

Answered: 1,378 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	**44.70%**	616
No	**55.30%**	762
Total		**1,378**

Q4 Name

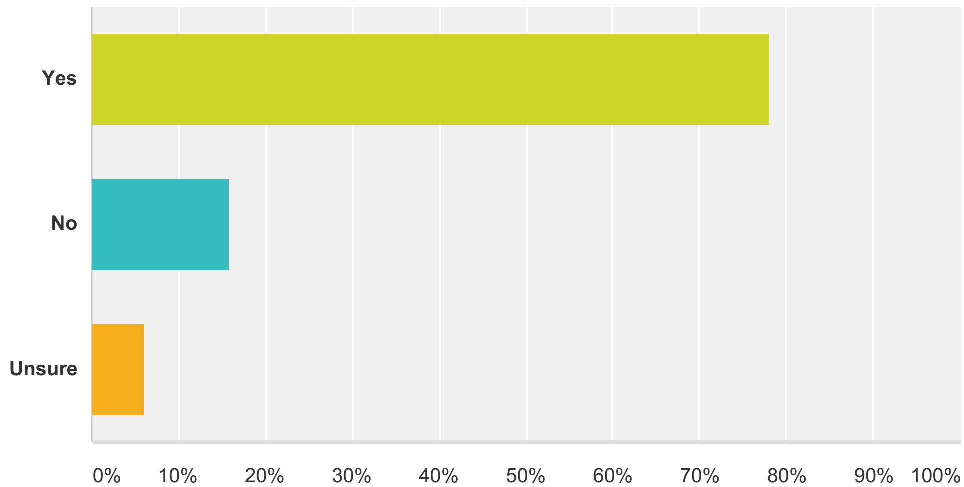
Answered: 641 Skipped: 737

Q5 Email

Answered: 643 Skipped: 735

Q6 Do you feel that Leichhardt Council would lose its identity if this was to happen?

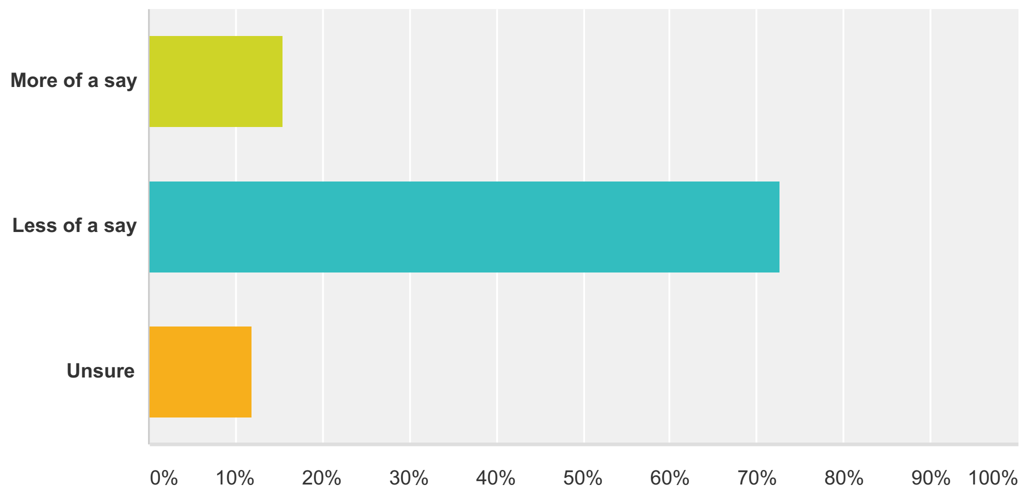
Answered: 1,378   Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	**78.16%**	1,077
No	**15.89%**	219
Unsure	**5.95%**	82
Total		**1,378**

Q7 Do you think you would have more of a say or less of a say in how our local area develops under a merged council?

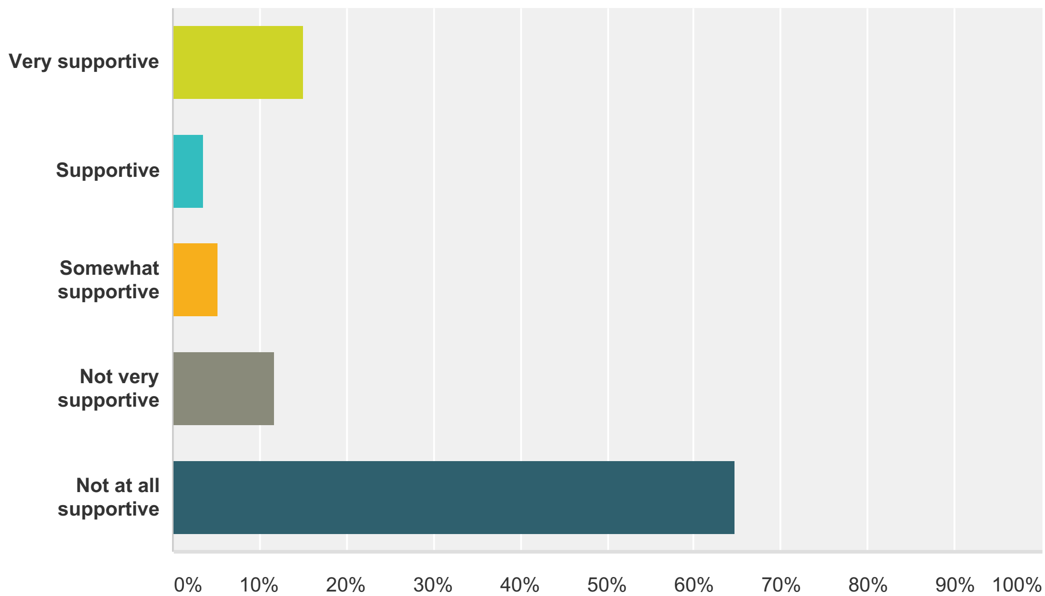
Answered: 1,378 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
More of a say	**15.46%**	213
Less of a say	**72.57%**	1,000
Unsure	**11.97%**	165
Total		**1,378**

Q8 Do you support the State Government recommendation that Leichhardt Council be abolished and amalgamated with Ashfield, Burwood, Canada Bay, Marrickville and Strathfield to form a new Mega Council?

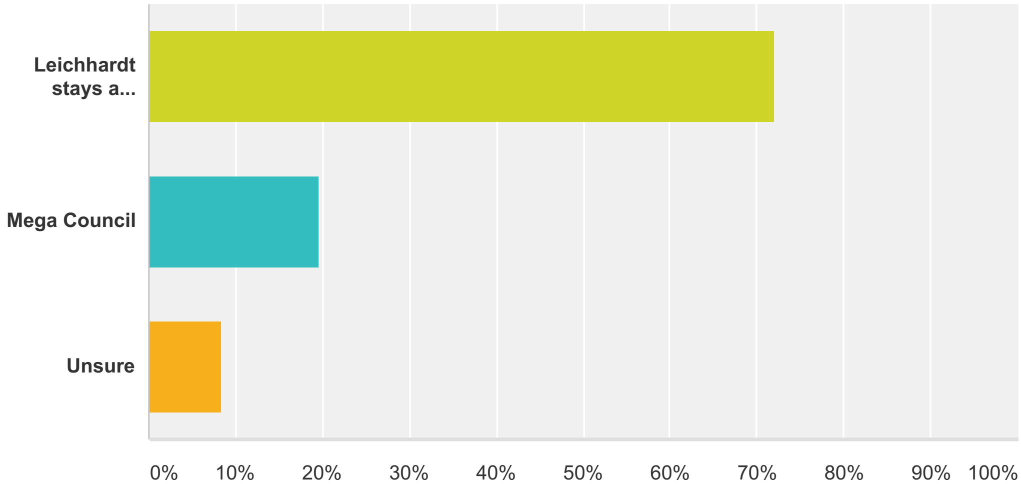
Answered: 1,378 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Very supportive	**14.95%**	206
Supportive	**3.48%**	48
Somewhat supportive	**5.30%**	73
Not very supportive	**11.61%**	160
Not at all supportive	**64.66%**	891
Total		**1,378**

Q9 If you had to choose between an amalgamated Inner West Mega Council and the status quo, which would you choose?

Answered: 1,378 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Leichhardt stays a standalone council	**72.06%**	993
Mega Council	**19.59%**	270
Unsure	**8.35%**	115
Total		**1,378**

Q10 If you want Leichhardt to stay independent what are your reasons for preferring this?

Answered: 849 Skipped: 529

Q10 If you want Leichhardt to stay independent what are your reasons for preferring this?

Answered: 849 Skipped: 529

#	Responses	Date
1	-merging will cost more. such as merging six different IT systems (currently used by different councils) will take years to bring in a common platform. by the time DA process will be slowed down and small investors who have invested in property, will face significant loss and NO ONE IS CONSIDERING THESE!	6/3/2015 6:52 PM
2	The bigger the council the less democracy there is. Leichhardt Council has a history of standing up for its residents, eg the third run way demonstrations, the fight against unsightly over head cables for pay TV, the refusal to sign the MOU regarding Westconnex. These stands would be harder to achieve if the Council was amalgamated with other councils. I believe that Leichhardt residents do not like changes forced upon them, such as the Planning Panels which was opposed by the majority of residents who responded to the Council survey.	6/2/2015 2:16 PM
3	No empirical evidence that " big is better". Want to retain current service levels. Prohibitive cost of amalgamation, not only on staffing and IT but in the opportunity costs as worthwhile matters will not get off the ground due to the time needed to complete the amalgamation. Differing 'cultures' of councils mean we will have a lower standard than at present. Mega councils will only result in a lowest common denominator. The only way I would support such a concept is if the State Government were to be abolished. In Queensland, councils have been de-amalgamating and in WA amalgamtion did not proceed. This is a thoroughly bad idea and one can only wonder at the motivation. Leichhardt Council is viable and should be allowed to continue s a stand alone entity. The main issue for local government is the cost shifting from both state and federal government and the iniquitous rate-pegging in NSW.	6/1/2015 7:26 PM
4	I have been a long time resident in Leichhardt and the residents views would be pushed aside if this amalgamation goes ahead. 342,000 residents all wanting something done in their area sounds like a ridiculous idea!! Why fix what is not broken??? If this goes ahead we will only learn the hard way and be forced to go back to smaller councils in the future as it will not work!! What a waste of time and money that will be!! Fight hard for your current residents Leichhardt Council.	5/27/2015 11:22 AM
5	As the owner of a property in Leichhardt, I wish to voice my disapproval of the idea of an amalgamation of councils. My reasons are that (a) size does matter and I like the current size which services all my needs and has done so for many years (b) financial benefits would not be forthcoming to me as a ratepayer or property owner.	5/26/2015 5:36 PM
6	Re my property situated at [redacted] I would like to vote NO to forced amalgamations of the Councils. Keep Leichhardt with its own identity	5/26/2015 5:34 PM
7	Rates paid are dedicated to our community's resources. I pay rent so that the property owner pays rates and keeps Leichhardt's community assets and services at their best.	5/26/2015 5:28 PM
8	LMC has a good track record on finances and currently heritage issues are becoming more supported. There is an extremely good rapport between residents and Leichhardt Councillors and staff.	5/25/2015 1:01 PM
9	Leichhardt is a highly efficient council. Our say in Council matters would be greatly reduced. The difference in socio-economic levels between the proposed council amalgamations would be unsustainable.	5/19/2015 11:21 AM
10	Look at the figures on representation! More community development than with an amalgamated council. Present council more able to respond to local events/wishes.	5/19/2015 11:17 AM
11	Leichhardt Council serves us well. A bigger Council wouldn't serve us well. Council is currently very approachable. That would be lost. That would be lost. Bigger would not be better.	5/19/2015 11:14 AM
12	More targeted decision making for out local area and issues. Lower rates (or less rate increases at least) Put a few more park bench seats in Pioneers Park, not facing WEST as son many of them do, too hot in summer!	5/19/2015 11:10 AM
13	A sense of community is basic to good mental health. Local Government is about Community needs not profitability. An amalgamation of Council's into this wide area destroys a sense of community and belonging. State Government a hangover from Colonial Days. We are way too over governed. Why not abolish state government and have locally based councils and federal representation.	5/19/2015 11:07 AM

14	IMPORTANT The ACT as written, is a stacked deck for the Minister. ALL the Councils should USE Section 218E to force minute boundary changes and it will grantee a statutory vote on the matter and mandate considerations all ten(10) factors covered by Section 263, not just one, aka IPART. Read the ACT, the 'enrolled electors' must get a statutory vote. The provisions I refer to have been in the ACT since 1858, ..it is called Democracy. IMPORTANT	5/17/2015 5:16 PM
15	The point of having a local council is that it makes local decisions and is servicing a small enough area that individual voices and needs can be heard, as soon as you expand this area, this becomes harder to do, and individual voices are heard less frequently.	5/15/2015 7:00 PM
16	The purpose of a local council is to deal with local issues. I don't see how the residents of the Leichhardt have the same needs and issues as those of Five Dock, Ashfield, Marrickville etc. These local areas have developed their own unique identity, whether its ethnic, social, age of residents, architecture, history .... the list goes on. Each is definitely unique. Leichhardt council is proving to have a very good communication system in place and are doing a very good job for their residents. I have been a resident and home owner of Leichhardt for all my life as were my parents and even my grandparents spent a good deal of their lives in Leichhardt. My father was born in Balmain and moved to Leichhardt in 1947.	5/14/2015 9:54 AM
17	I believe Leichhardt Council has been and continues to be financially responsible and viable. Despite its faults it's responsive to and represents smaller scale (residents?) needs and addresses local community matters. I strongly believe the push for forced council amalgamations is due to the State Government's attempt to use back-door, undemocratic means to implement its previously unsuccessful planning laws. This is a BIG DEVELOPER PUSH. They want it ALL. It's UNDEMOCRATIC.	5/11/2015 5:06 PM
18	I just want to state that I am absolutely against the forced amalgamation of Leichhardt into a Mega Council with Canada Bay, Marrickville, Ashfield, Burwood and Strathfield. Only people who life in the Leichhardt Municipality can fully appreciate and cope with Leichhardt's needs.	5/11/2015 5:04 PM
19	Residents in Leichhardt would have less representation in an amalgamated council. This area has its own culture and characteristics and requires its own council to cater to this.	5/10/2015 8:25 PM
20	I have yet to understand the supposed advantages of the amalgamation. There seem to be a lot of warm words without any sound reasoning and the bigger picture economic and lifestyle benefits to our current LGA are not obvious. I believe in an ongoing review process to ensure that our Council are efficient and effective. Over the last few years Leichhardt Council have been doing a good job. I also feel that a council's responsibilities are not just limited to economic factors. A sense of "community" is very important. Many of the local services supplied, or supported, by Council enhance this and we all have easy access to our councillors. It is unlikely that a mega council would be able to better this.	5/10/2015 12:01 PM
21	Even though the areas may be regarded as close geographically, the cultures, demographic and needs are vastly different. Even just a drive through each area makes this highly visible. This diversity would be lost in a wider council where needs of one group have to be balanced off with anothers and things will be overlooked in the wash up. We all know it's about power and that might is right!! The inner west will lose it's eccentricities and charm. Leichhardt council guards it's 'environmental/ green' approach highly and so I can easily align my personal values with that and feel proud of my choice to buy a property and live there. My identify would be identity lost in something too big. For example Leichhardt council guards it's 'environmental/ green' approach highly and so I can easily align my personal values with that and feel proud of my choice to buy a property there. Retaining the different cultures would be under threat and the needs of some people / groups lost in the bigger mix. Moving home from Rozelle to Leichhardt some years ago made me very aware of the different lifestyles and needs And that's moving only one kilometre. Financially it might make sense but agaun we put money before people's lifestyles. What are we on the planet for? I'm sure it's not to be all about economic rationalism. Maybe though we do need to tighten and better control the way money is spent. But let's look for a more palatable approach. People need to feel heard and like to be known and identified with something. Culture would be lost in the 'fight' for recognition and a bland generic culture would result. The needs of some people / groups lost in the bigger mix. Moving home from Rozelle to Leichhardt some years ago made me very aware of the different lifestyles and needs And that's moving only one kilometre. Financially it might make sense but at the cost of life. What are we on the planet for? I'm sure it's bit economy rationalism. Maybe though we do need to tighten and better control the way money is spent maybe with more professional oversight. People need to feel heard and like to be known and identified with something. Culture would be lost in the 'fight' for recognition and a bland generic approach the result. Sydney as a city would be the lesser for it.	5/9/2015 8:36 AM
22	More focus on local resident issues.	5/7/2015 7:26 PM
23	I believe there is better representation of community needs, wishes place & planning and outcomes with a smaller Council. There is probably some room for more collaboration & some shared resources between Councils.	5/7/2015 5:45 PM

24	More community focused	5/7/2015 4:47 PM
25	I don't think residents would gain any benefits from amalgamation.	5/7/2015 1:34 PM
26	All areas in the Inner West have a distinct 'personality' and demographic, to amalgamate councils would lead to a 'generic' approach to all residents	5/7/2015 8:32 AM
27	We have Federal Government, State Government and Local Government, Local Government being the key words. Leichhardt Council services the area it knows well, knows what is needed, services the needs of its residences. There is no way a mega council will do this. We would be just a number. Big is definitely not better. A governing body needs to know its own area well. I ask How much money has been wasted with this proposal for something that is not wanted? How much research went into this proposal? Have we the residents being given a chance to comment on the proposal? Have we the residents been offered an opportunity to see the results of the so called research? Or is the government just forging ahead ignoring the residents wants? Have other councils been forced to amalgamate? Has the amalgamation had any positive outcomes?	5/6/2015 6:31 PM
28	The model recommended is already in place in Auckland NZ & is a failure in the provision of services. Local residents & ratepayers have no say what so ever over any decisions for their community. We are a very cohesive community & this must remain for us.	5/6/2015 3:33 PM
29	A council particular to an area knows the needs and people well. They cater things to the community and because of this have well supported events, forums, information nights etc. There is opportunity to form relationships and understanding with community and council and for all to work together. Why does the State Government keep taking community, communication, understanding and compassion out of everything it touches. Where has humanity gone. We are not robots! Where is decency and common sense!! It hasn't worked in other places and cost more to dismantle!	5/6/2015 11:58 AM
30	Council services and support should be available, accessible, affordable, acceptable to the residents served. Leichhardt council retains: - the ability to understand local issues through genuine and relevant engagement with residents, timely decision making and appropriate application of resources on local needs. - ensure that the local character and cultural history and interests are understood, respected, fostered and preserved. - Preservation of the character and historically significant elements of the Leichhardt area My understanding of and expectation of a Mega Council is that services and resources for local issues will likely be reduced in availability, accessibility and quality. Specifically, I see the risk that garbage collection, street cleaning, collection of dumped furniture and rubbish could be compromised. I also see the risk that responsiveness of the administrative services could be compromised via large call centres where staff are not familiar with the local information and issues. I have lived in both Marrickville and Leichhardt and found the services for residents to be readily available, accessible, affordable etc. and I find it hard to imagine that a mega council could provide in a comparable manner.	5/5/2015 8:18 PM
31	It is my belief that the current council covers a reasonably large geographical and considerable population that have move or lived in the area due to the attractions it has. A larger mega council will lose the touch points now available with the existing structure and will range across a geography that has micro cultures in it now which I feel will be lost or will merge to one mega council culture where resource planning will be done at the macro level. This macro level planning will mean that the micro culture and local needs will not be able to be handle in the more sensitive way it is now. The local voice will be lost or filtered. The experience and analogy I use is when a multinational consumes a medium size business that has run well for years. The local culture, individual needs and idiosyncrasies are lost over a relatively short period of time. regards.	5/5/2015 7:40 PM
32	I live in Leichhardt and want the good service that has mostly always been provided to continue. As with most things, the larger they become, the less likely good service will be provided at an escalated price.	5/5/2015 7:31 PM
33	Will decide when I have sufficient information to form an opinion to support or not support an amalgamation.	5/5/2015 4:03 PM
34	The quality and quantity of services in Leichhardt is first class. I have worked in large corporate environments incl. mergers and acquisitions and mega is not better, never ever.	5/5/2015 3:40 PM
35	Accessibility of local council to constituents; sensitivity of a local council to local needs; overarching bureaucracy of large amalgamated body likely to be cumbersome, inefficient and quite possibly more expensive; important for residents to retain a sense of local identity.	5/5/2015 3:32 PM
36	A smaller Council would offer better service to ratepayers. A larger Council would not be able to respond as quickly to local issues as a small Council would be able to. Council staff of a smaller Council would be more likely to know more about the local area than staff of a Mega Council. The main point made by the proponents of Mega Councils is the cost savings resulting from the economies of scale but this would result in a reduced quality of service from the Council to ratepayers.	5/5/2015 12:31 PM

37	I object to the Amalgamation of Leichhardt Marrickville Burwood Canada Bay Strathfield and Ashfield Councils. I believe Leichhardt Council needs to remain independent of the above named councils and from any other councils, because Leichhardt needs to remain efficient at dealing with the locals as well as employing enough staff to help people when needed. I believe Amalgamation means less quality of service to the public in many ways - the example being restricted access for the elderly, disabled people who only use public transport and problems with restricted services especially for community services like interpreters and JPs. Please allow Leichhardt Council to stand alone.	5/5/2015 11:32 AM
38	The strength of a good local government is that it is local. Access to councillors and officers is very good for me and has so far been excellent. The model is a great continuence work with its own town hall. The thought of amalgamation is horrifying. Keep up the good fight to preserve autonomy.	5/5/2015 11:29 AM
39	Anything will be better than this regime of poor managers and administrators.	5/5/2015 10:23 AM
40	Because I don't see the need to change the status quo, & because my sister-in-law works for the council, & I have got into the habit of watching the council (while knowing it has had some difficulties lately). Still, my observation is that these are not insurmountable problems, & I'd be sorry to see the last of the old-style Italian neighborhoods disappear, ie Leichhardt.	5/4/2015 9:09 PM
41	I want a mega council.	5/4/2015 9:05 PM
42	What is 'local' government if it is not 'local'? So-called 'mega councils' will destroy local identity. They will make it harder for residents to contribute to decision-making on local issues. The community already feels sufficiently impotent when it comes to the decisions of local government. A 'mega council' would make this even worse. I can only begin to imagine how the inevitable 'one-size fits all' approach would erode the idiosyncrasies that make each of our local communities special. There's already enough corruption at local government level without an even bigger entity providing increased anonymity for those abusing their position.	5/4/2015 7:03 PM
43	better to maintain local character and more focused on local issues	5/4/2015 4:44 PM
44	bigger does mean better, loss of local focus	5/4/2015 4:42 PM
45	More responsive to local issues Can deal with problems specific to Leichhardt Council Megacouncils will probably be less efficient Access to councillors will be more difficult	5/4/2015 4:42 PM
46	Would prefer if Leichhardt Council was forced to amalgamate if this were done with City of Sydney or Balmain/Rozelle stand alone	5/4/2015 4:40 PM
47	I feel when things get too big things get out of hand. A group of local people now what the community wants and have a more personal touch which seems to be disappointing these days. I also feel corruption is more of a risk in a bigger amalgamation of Councils.	5/4/2015 4:39 PM
48	to protect our local area better from over development	5/4/2015 4:36 PM
49	maintain current greater democratic representation	5/4/2015 4:36 PM
50	For the last number of years, since Larry Hard was Mayor we began to have an open council we have been very pleased with the activities of Leichhardt Council! It is a progressive council on the whole and our suburb Annandale is better for it. I shall always thank the Council for supporting us and neighbours in the Lands and Environment Court where it and we had a resounding victory against unsavoury development. I would like to think that Leichhardt Council would continue its green credentials and be anti stupid development of buildings that overshadow homes and take away already limited views of trees and city skyline etc.	5/4/2015 4:35 PM
51	council can keep its focus on local issues with smaller lga	5/4/2015 4:31 PM
52	Different demographics / needs in each area. We are a low-rise housing area unlike Strathfield, Ashfield, Burwood. Leichhardt has a unique inner west atmosphere.	5/4/2015 4:29 PM
53	does good job now	5/4/2015 4:29 PM
54	why change when council working well as is, strong local representation on local issues.	5/4/2015 4:28 PM
55	is a way that the State Govt can get rid of Councils that oppose their plans. Such as the new freeway proposed by Baird. Back to the 1950-60 there are many questions an less answers.	5/4/2015 4:25 PM
56	Standalone is the only way to ensure services are kept up and residents' concerns are heard. Amalgamated councils have more chance for corruption and pressure groups, less chance for individuals and local interests. One council fits all is a horror story.	5/4/2015 4:24 PM
57	amalgamated councils will not represent residents as well.	5/4/2015 4:23 PM

58	These councils cover areas with very different demographics and would not benefit by merging.	5/4/2015 4:21 PM
59	I have been impressed by sense of leichhardt lga identity since I moved here from Victoria where my local council was merged.	5/4/2015 4:21 PM
60	smaller lga allows you to have greater say in your local area	5/4/2015 4:20 PM
61	Amalgamation would mean: reduced council representation decrease in community atmosphere created by council loss of contact with community needs and requests loss of individuality in relation to planning given that Leichhardt has needs different from the other councils.	5/4/2015 4:20 PM
62	I think the services would be cut further and I like the way things are and our rates would be much higher. NO TO AMALGAMATION.	5/4/2015 4:18 PM
63	smaller lga is more down to earth and effective. better to abolish the state government than local.	5/4/2015 4:18 PM
64	small lga more effective for residents, more tailored to particular resident needs.	5/4/2015 4:17 PM
65	Less likely to be corrupt than the mega council. Easier to relate to a smaller, closer council. Mega councils are designed to benefit big developers, who should be controlled in the public interest. If merger happened, it would be better for Leichhardt to join with City of Sydney, NOT Marrickville, Ashfield etc.	5/4/2015 4:17 PM
66	Reasonable rates good events such as Eco-Fest	5/4/2015 4:17 PM
67	Big is not better	5/4/2015 4:16 PM
68	No Amalgamation!	5/4/2015 4:15 PM
69	Needs more information before forming an opinion Identity Sense of Community that will be lost if amalgamated Loss of voice surrounding local issues	5/4/2015 4:14 PM
70	The way the federal and state liberal parties are screwing the tax payer, rate payers and pensioners there would be no benefit to me. I would have less say. Govern of the people by the people for the people. Nothing is theirs to sell - electricity power poles etc. Totally discussed with Abbot, Hockey Baird Governments, they even attacked the veterans pensioner etc. They should be known as traitors to Australia.	5/4/2015 4:14 PM
71	We do not want Leichhardt Council to merge with other Councils. Yes, we very strongly feel that both the state and federal LNP Party are a track of stupid morons	5/4/2015 4:11 PM
72	Presence the feeling of locality rather than some remote councils If it happens it would become a good starting point to revenue State Parliament and go to the County pattern as in the UK	5/4/2015 4:08 PM
73	Our rates are already high and I think they will go higher and we have less say about high rise development and less services. I have lived in Balmain my whole life 76 years. I am a pensioner and I do not want to see a mega council. They would have too much power and we would have less services. I have lived at the same address for 55 years and want to stay. We would have less say in how our area is affected, especially by high rise and large development.	5/4/2015 4:04 PM
74	I have observed what has happened over the past decade in Victoria after their mega councils were created. Try and avoid this happening.	5/4/2015 4:02 PM
75	Loss of our unique local identiry through having a small local council rather than being part of some amorphous mass of people. Loss of local wards, precinct, community facilities and organisations. Less say in our local affairs. Do not let it happen! Big will not be better for the residents.	5/4/2015 4:00 PM
76	LMC is doing well now and it would probably mean more red tape with a much larger merged council, causing delays with rate payers etc requirements and help and a sense of community will diminish.	5/4/2015 3:58 PM
77	Bigger has never been necessarily better. In fact the opposite! Local services are already less available and accessible, how much worse will they get under the proposed amalgamation? As long time residents of Leichhardt we want to retain our say in our future and our own community.	5/4/2015 3:57 PM
78	Mega councils cannot provide services to such an unwielding diversity of needs. Amalgamation is a seriously dangerous idea	5/4/2015 3:56 PM
79	Better Local representation Community knowledged involvement Risk that amalgamation will result in reduces sources and less responsive council to local needs Increased lack of transparency and accountability - corruption What is the State Government rationale for these changes? Purely financial?	5/4/2015 3:55 PM
80	More individual service. More councillors per person, service would deteriorate.	5/4/2015 3:53 PM

81	Independent local government keeps democracy intact.	5/4/2015 3:52 PM
82	We would lose our identity and autonomy. If there was amalgamation where would Council offices be?	5/4/2015 3:49 PM
83	I prefer to have a council that reflects my local area, needs, population. I do not understand why the state gov is implementing amalgamations. What are they proposing as benefits? A bigger council could become more bureaucratic and impersonal. If we had to be forcibly amalgamated I would at least like to join the city of Sydney.	5/4/2015 3:48 PM
84	If I need to speak to someone at Leichhardt Council that is possible. Both the present State and Federal Governments have shown they are not interested in our 'small' problems. I feel a mega council would be the same - people forget that their job is to spend our rates in a service for the people when they are in a larger and anonymous group.	5/4/2015 3:46 PM
85	More population = less staff to attend to council concerns. Very definitely no no no! Thanks for giving us the opportunity to have our say.	5/4/2015 3:45 PM
86	Higher rates, higher costs, possible sale of council facilities and assets, loss of local representation, loss of local jobs.	5/4/2015 3:39 PM
87	Bigger is not better. I feel there would be more red tape and bureaucracy. In all the 22 years I have lived in Leichhardt I have round the staff friendly, informative and supportive, especially since being on an aged pension. I feel all that may be lost with amalgamation.	5/4/2015 3:38 PM
88	I don't believe the services would necessarily be of the same standard. The current council seems aware of the needs of the various localities it services (ie White Bay) and I don't think this could be true of a larger organisation. Also it is easy to speak to council staff who are always in my experience courteous and helpful. And I don't believe bigger would be better.	5/4/2015 3:36 PM
89	Bigger generally means more bureaucracy and less nuanced delivery of services.	5/4/2015 3:34 PM
90	Council doers a good job for local people - I attend meetings and have my voice heard - would not be the same with a mega council.	5/4/2015 3:33 PM
91	Staff understanding local issues will be lost / reduced. No personal service. Not against amalgamation completely eg an amalgamation with Ashfield could work. Leichhardt Council could certainly take lessons from Ashfield in park management.	5/4/2015 3:33 PM
92	It is supposed to be LOCAL GOVERNMENT. It isn't local if we are part of a group that we don't relate to. Put the word "local" in large print on all council publications.	5/4/2015 3:31 PM
93	I feel the quality of service is better as a standalone. Also a smaller council can be more proactive, and not bogged down by levels of bureaucracy. Also I do not want my rates to rise. Leichhardt Council has improved greatly in recent years and I am satisfied with the way things are.	5/4/2015 3:28 PM
94	More focus on local community needs. Funding kept for local council requirements / upgrades.	5/4/2015 3:25 PM
95	I don't believe in the efficiency of mega organisations. Please keep fighting against amalgamations plans.	5/4/2015 3:24 PM
96	A smaller council can meet the needs of its area much more than a mega council. Leichhardt Council covers some historic areas which have special needs. We want Leichhardt Council to stay as a stand alone council!	5/4/2015 3:23 PM
97	Each council has its own identity depending on the type of area covered. These areas are all quite different and amalgamation would destroy these different identities. I own a property which was covered by cooloola council. Since amalgamation with gympie council my rates have almost doubled.	5/4/2015 3:21 PM
98	The council would only to address local issues and rate payers would have more done around our area. Our rates would pay for upkeep of Leichhardt. If there were a few areas we may miss out on our due revenue and standards may fall.	5/4/2015 3:20 PM
99	Leichhardt Council is in a much better position to deal with local issues. I am appalled by the idea of amalgamating Leichhardt Council with other inner west councils. Haven't we learnt any lessons from the past? A mega council will deliver mega impersonal services.	5/4/2015 3:17 PM
100	I am very happy with the Council as is - As a resident we have all to loose and nothing to benefit from such an amalgamation.	5/4/2015 2:29 PM
101	more simplicity of service - more personalised service - Leichhardt has its own specific needs and demographic	5/4/2015 2:27 PM

102	Local interest in the area by residents who live locally - controls by local Council and access to meetings - open discussion with Councillors who have residents interests and knowledge at heart. Financial viability - consistent controls - I do not consider an amalgamation to a larger council to be in the interest of individual areas - where this has been undertaken it has destroyed the individual and historical natures of the area and has resulted in increased costs. It is widely known that a number of cases have been unsuccessful. Amalgamation has not worked - services have been lost and areas neglected	5/4/2015 2:24 PM
103	The forced amalgamations of local councils in Victoria has not been successful in delivering better services for the rate payers	5/4/2015 2:19 PM
104	Mega Councils = mega unrestrained over development - An example is Sydney Council seizing extra electorates to obtain more land to develop - Hence the ugliness that is Harold Park	5/4/2015 2:17 PM
105	Better connection with council - not convinced amalgamation is better	5/4/2015 2:14 PM
106	1. They are doing a great job now - why change what is working 2. Currently more personalised - good service	5/4/2015 2:13 PM
107	Leichhardt Council works well - if its not broke don't try to fix it. Individual small councils are managed by people who care about the district - We know them Bigger = more impersonal = less effective	5/4/2015 2:10 PM
108	Leichhardt Council fully understands the requirements financially, environmentally, socially and government impacts within its Council. An amalgamated Council does not - it is essential Leichhardt remains standalone to ensure the best outcomes with this community	5/4/2015 2:08 PM
109	Existing system works well - mega council means less representation and higher rates - Larger local gov is likely to be less responsive to residents wishes - state gov keen on property development wants larger local gov less responsive to residnets	5/4/2015 1:55 PM
110	It will be able to look after local needs better and more individuality - local councils need to stay local	5/4/2015 1:46 PM
111	loss of identity and less of a say	5/4/2015 1:44 PM
112	Retain local identity - retain reputation and genuinely consultative local governance more say in local issues claimed efficiency of larger councils open to dispute - difficult for local residents to attend council meetings if they are further away. LMC is (now) independent of sway of major political parties and not corrupt (not so sure about some of the other Councils) Urban growth plans for increased high rise development have been opposed by LMC but not by councils further west along Parramatta Road	5/4/2015 1:41 PM
113	Residents will lose out if amalgamated with other Councils	5/4/2015 1:35 PM
114	Mega bureaucracy ideas are a way of removing locals from local issues. Its important for democracy that local councils can work closely with communities and gauge the services required. The cost of creating the mega council would outway any benefit and than the next state government would spend millions decentralising It's likely to end up another corrupt inefficient government waste of money. Money for marketing spin with no real accountable statistics will dominate. What about real services for people. It's garbage-pun intended.	5/4/2015 1:33 PM
115	Maintain connection. Decision making with community. Loss of identity less responsive to local issues/needs Lessening of resources human ad structural/material Advocacy lessened for local demographic needs top down approach more likely I support Leichhardt Council's advocacy/lobbying to maintain Council's independent local status in its entity.	5/4/2015 1:29 PM
116	You are hopeless but being part of dumpy, needy areas like Marrickville and Ashfield will be worse! Stop being hopeless! and get rid of your disgusting obese mayor. She is disgrace! ?6 - It's not about identity - it's about whether we get better or worse service, and at what cost?	5/4/2015 1:25 PM
117	We have lived in Kogarah, Camden and Marrickville Councils over the last 20 years and have a sister at Lilyfield all of that time and admired the level of service from Leichhardt - We recently purchased in Annandale and don't want this to change	5/4/2015 1:22 PM
118	- unique culture of Leichhardt would be lost in a mega council significant rate interests are not welcome The Leichhardt municipality has unique housing and architecture - it would be a pity if recognitions of this would be lost in a mega council	5/4/2015 1:21 PM
119	Local representation - Councillors live in the municipality + understand the needs / requirements of residents. Don't believe that there will be advantage due to economies of scale by merging.	5/4/2015 1:19 PM

120	I feel Leichhardt Council as a standalone council provides a good service to ratepayers. They have also been supportive in times of people breaking council laws and furthermore, I will not forget the support fundraising council gave to our community of Rozelle after the explosion and fire on Darling Street Rozelle in September 2014. I also feel jobs would be lost if the merger were to take place. I feel the ratepayers would only be a number in a mega council and rates would be increased. Long term residents would have to sell their properties.	5/4/2015 1:17 PM
121	Bigger is not better. Local services are bound to suffer. Rates are unlikely to go down. Accountability will be greatly reduced. A plan for the NSW Govt not for Leichhardt residents. Don't do it. It will be hard to reverse.	5/4/2015 1:13 PM
122	Only if it can demonstrate lower rate increases and increased public amenities (paths, cycleway, park). The financial and public amenity cases (benefits/costs) need clarification by both advocates!	5/4/2015 1:10 PM
123	Our suburb identity promotes more cohesion in the community We feel like a family and care more for our surroundings knowing that our local council cares too...and listens to our concerns	5/4/2015 1:08 PM
124	-who wants belong to a juggernaut? More of the personal touch about Leichhardt staying a standalone council -creates a stronger sense of community -creates a sense that Leichhardt Council is working for the good of its citizens who live in its now manageable size I find Council staff very obliging and our street/ shopping centre are kept very tidy. Council tries to encourage community activities and speaks out on relevant issues when necessary	5/4/2015 1:06 PM
125	I have friends and relatives in the surrounding councils and from what I see and hear none of these has the level of service supplied by Leichhardt council. Their services are excellent.	5/4/2015 1:02 PM
126	More in touch with local issues - more accessible to the rate payers - against big government	5/4/2015 12:57 PM
127	I want to be represented by people who understand our local issues. I would never trust a mega council to help shape the future of Balmain with as much care and attention as Leichhardt. Leichhardt performs better than a mega council - Morrison Low report	5/4/2015 12:57 PM
128	- Known to have good Governance - strong financial situation - better Councillor Access - Better values - open space etc... - Better rate control - Strong Community values - Better planning controls - Open Government	5/4/2015 12:55 PM
129	they will look after local interests they know the area and its constituents they know the history and demographic they call also local issues and preserving its integrity and local feel	5/4/2015 12:51 PM
130	There is a wonderful sense of community in Leichhardt - this would be lost if there is an amalgamation. Leichhardt Council does an amazing job - I see no good reason to make changes	5/4/2015 12:49 PM
131	focus on local issues responsive service delivery detailed local accountability good track record	5/4/2015 12:46 PM
132	loss of representation plus community loyalty plus feeling becoming one big amorphous conglomerate does not represent the individual person - loss of identity	5/4/2015 12:43 PM
133	Leichhardt has an identity which is unique the suburb of Leichhardt already has key areas Balmain, Rozelle and Lilyfield - Small is beautiful. Canada Bay is only new being an entity on its own - it will loos that atmosphere if it is merged	5/4/2015 12:43 PM
134	a standalone council just makes more sense: it promotes community awareness whereas an inner west mega council would be a remote body out of touch with communities it is supposed to serve	5/4/2015 12:41 PM
135	I think we know what is best for us, a small council is more effective we know we want	5/4/2015 12:38 PM
136	to maintain the unique qualities of life that exist in the older suburbs	5/4/2015 12:36 PM
137	It seems likely a standalone council would have a better chance of reacting in specific, detailed local issues more accurately and swiftly than a mega council could Arguments about economies of scale tend to ignore the specific individual needs than smaller bodies can meet	5/4/2015 12:36 PM
138	if amalgamated it be a big zone Leichhardt will lose its identity Care to Leichhardt areas will be lost Parks, roads rubbish will be same care of Leichhardt Council	5/4/2015 12:34 PM
139	Need for local government to be local and for there to be sufficient Councillors to be available to represent the diverse communities as the already exist. Councils should no be run by their employees but by their elected officers.	5/4/2015 12:32 PM
140	Local community issues and local environmental needs would be lost in a mega council	5/4/2015 12:29 PM
141	a good level of service at affordable ratio able to have input on planning and development issues good access to councillors a co-operative and responsive council staff	5/4/2015 12:27 PM

142	larger means more remote plus less likely to be interested in small scale local issues decision making becomes a compromise over very different areas with larger populations	5/4/2015 12:24 PM
143	more say for local residents in what happens here	5/4/2015 12:10 PM
144	greater area focus and more democratic and accessible input and response	5/4/2015 12:09 PM
145	very responsive to local concerns	5/4/2015 12:07 PM
146	Leichhardt Council can respond more readily to our particular local issues as a stand alone Council.	5/4/2015 12:03 PM
147	Council does a very god job. "If it's not broke, don't try to fix it."	5/4/2015 11:59 AM
148	Consolidation of services does little to respresent the little person in the community. It will be more likely to give more power to the already powerful particularly developers and the monied.	5/3/2015 8:37 PM
149	Staying local, more say in local matters	5/2/2015 10:06 PM
150	Leichhardt Council is doing a good job. It is also in touch with ordinary residents, like myself. I feel that I can have input if I want to. It responds to issues in the local paper. Also, a few years ago, I also had an issue with a neighbour about building a cabin for my son in the back yard. Some councilors actually came to my house, investigated the issue and advocated for me against more powerful interests and bureacracy. This wouldn't happen in a mega council. I think smaller organisational entities serve society much better than big ones in Australia today. It would be too easy for a big council to be controlled and unduly influenced by wealthy businesses and developers. This will cause lots of ineffective expenditure. A smaller council like Leichhardt is controlled by councilors who are much more in touch with the ordinary person. It is more difficult and complicated for wealthy business lobbying to influence lots of small councils than a few big ones.	5/2/2015 9:07 PM
151	Better representation of our interests Our best interests could be sidestepped So happy with Leichhardt council, think amalgamation would mean less achieved, lose our identity to others self interest	5/2/2015 7:45 PM
152	Need to keep leichhardt identify . What maybe good for strathfield is not fit for leichhardt .. Vice versa with all other areas	5/2/2015 10:59 AM
153	Good leadership Happy with status quo Loss of identity Loss of individualism Different areas, different needs Our local voted leader knows us and what we want and stand for	5/2/2015 10:53 AM
154	Rate increases Slower services Harder to get work approved the list is endless	5/2/2015 10:09 AM
155	I want a local focus and as a rate payer I expect a focus on my community	5/2/2015 2:07 AM
156	Maintain control for local people. I am concerned that an enlarged council will mean decisions being made by people not local to the area.	5/1/2015 7:56 PM
157	Leichhardt Council has achieved some great things for our local community. In particular, I am really pleased with councils work for and with the LGBTQI community. I believe that the other councils involved, excluding marrickville, have done very little for the LGBTQI community. I am worried that this focus will be lost in a super council	5/1/2015 6:51 PM
158	Don't want our unique area to lose its identity.	5/1/2015 6:17 PM
159	O	5/1/2015 5:48 PM
160	Rate payers deserve to have a council that is focussed on serving their immediate community and is in touch with the needs and requirements of their people.	5/1/2015 5:41 PM

161	1. The current level of ratepayer representation through councillors should not be diluted. 2. The modelling undertaken by Leichhardt, Canada Bay, Burwood, Ashfield and Marrickville Councils shows that the best option for the Leichhardt municipality to meet the "Fit for the Future" objectives is to maintain the current local Leichhardt Council. 3. It makes no sense for the State Government to propose a mega-Council that cannot meet the State Government's own "Fit for the Future" objectives. 4. Setting a target of 250,000 persons for council catchments is an arbitrary choice. The State Government has not justified this choice by demonstrating that it will improve council performance and ratepayer satisfaction. In fact, the mega -Council proposal would under-perform on the "Fit for the Future" targets and reduce service and representation levels for Leichhardt ratepayers. 5. If the State Government believes that cost and service levels (e.g. for rubbish and recycling collections, road maintenance etc) can be improved by enlarging the catchment of Councils, there are ways other than amalgamation to achieve that goal (e.g. by having councils collaborate on issuing contracts for these services). 6. The State Government has not produced any compelling objective evidence that the creation of a mega-Council provides improved performance for ratepayers. This leads to speculation that the State Government has other agendas for promoting amalgamation, such as reducing the opportunity for residents to participate in discussions about development plans for the greater Sydney area. A State Government that has a robust and justifiable plan for development should not have to resort to "behind the scenes" tactics to convince the electorate of the value of its vision.	5/1/2015 11:29 AM
162	I have real reservations about the duplication that exists between councils when it comes to basic service delivery. I think it might behove the councils to work together to streamline a number of 'back office' and service delivery roles: eg rubbish collection. If ratepayers could see councils seeking efficiencies rather than seeking to maintain bloating (6 general managers, with all of the attendant staff and support services) then the government might be better placed to shelve plans for amalgamation.	5/1/2015 9:29 AM
163	We will have better services We will be heard We don't want lose our sense of community We have a strong sense of identity as a community that is local we do t want to lose that.	4/30/2015 10:11 AM
164	The culture and values as well as the nature of the people that live in the Leichhardt area are vastly different to those of Canada Bay, Ashfield and Strathfield Council areas. Marrickville seems to be a good fit though. Also local issues that can currently be dealt with by a local Council would be lost in a mega Council area.	4/29/2015 9:14 AM
165	1. Local council handling local issues. 2. This is my neighbourhood, my council. 3. Tell me again, what's in it for me?	4/29/2015 8:52 AM
166	Details not publicised - want to get more info. Why has this not been communicated to all stakeholders?	4/28/2015 9:19 PM
167	1. It seems to me the greater the power the greater the ensuing corruption 2. The current size of Leichhardt Local Council seems effective. This efficacy would be diluted by a Mega Council 3. I expect the basis of this decision is purely economic. As I would expect that the ethical impact has not been considered. Let's ask the local school chaplain...	4/28/2015 6:26 PM
168	I believe that Leichhardt Council is the voice of the Residents and regarding to this Amalgamation No too much is going from our communities we need our Mayor Rochelle Porteous and Councillors like her to speak for the whole of of the areas in which they now look after,let's retain some proven and caring situations which is very important to the residents. One Councillor for 22,413 Leichhardt Council residents instead of one for every 4,692 is ridiculous these are nothing but numbers have some one forgotten these are people who need to be helped in many situations why may I ask just working to keep what you have is becoming so stressful. So to the Mayor and Councillors don't let this serious risk of Amalgamations happen stay as you are in a job which is very demanding and stressful which you do so well. My sincere wishes . Kind regard [redacted]	4/28/2015 1:57 PM
169	Leichhardt Council can respond to resident needs in a quick and efficient manner. If the resident base grows to a mega council service to current residents would be diminished.	4/28/2015 10:27 AM
170	The model as is, carries its own challenges. These challenges would be increased under a "Mega Council", NOT reduced. Furthermore, there are numerous other areas where the government can be cutting cost, this is NOT one of them.	4/27/2015 10:35 PM
171	Greater input into my area; lower rates; maintain current services provided; etc.	4/27/2015 9:49 PM
172	- locally significant services as a council is required - local identity is required - a mega council is more open to corruption (let's be honest NSW is incredibly corrupt, especially at the state level), differing view points and will likely not serve individual\micro community needs which the current structure does and as is seen by the current and differing representative groups across the area for each council. - I'm in favour of councils working together to optimise some services, go to contract say on some services that are common, yet let's keep issues and representation local to each community\area. - Rates and contributions stays local	4/27/2015 8:35 PM

173	In my opinion, whilst the Council areas of Leichhardt, Ashfield, Burwood, Canada Bay, Marrickville & Strathfield are relatively close in area, they are vastly different in their demographics. I fear that if there was a Mega Council to be formed with the other Inner West Councils, the existing Leichhardt Council would be forced to comply with the others' zoning restrictions ... and that could open the floodgates to massive high rise development along the major corridors of Victoria Road & Parramatta Road and the foreshores. I am staunchly opposed to these changes in the Balmain/Rozelle area. You only need to look at those other Council areas to see that they have largely lost their 'heritage'.	4/27/2015 5:20 PM
174	A significant loss of identity and access to local representation and experienced staff who know the local community would be outcomes of a Mega Council. I do not support a mega council however, I do support accountability and efficiencies being achieved through other means. This includes a focus on what is included in council's community strategic plan and ensuring the delivery plan is actually delivered and reported on in a transparent way by September 2016. A mega council does not mean a more efficient or cost effective council.	4/27/2015 3:54 PM
175	Having lived in three different LGA areas in Sydney over a period of 35 years I find Leichhardt to be the best run and to offer the best service to rate payers.	4/27/2015 1:42 PM
176	I am a resident of City of Canada Bay and have already been through the amalgamation of Drummoyne and Concord Councils. Although residents objected strongly, the Govt of the day went ahead with the amalgamation. I am concerned about 1. different building codes (heights) as they differ between CCB, Leichhardt etc and those of Burwood and Strathfield which have high rise buildings. and 2. The demography of each Council differs and as it now stands each Council caters and plans for its differing demographic groups.	4/27/2015 12:40 PM
177	A council should be local, for local people, business and an organisation that is in the heart of the community is better suited to do this than a mega council that will no doubt have various factors and people infighting and not making local decisions with local n Knowledge	4/26/2015 11:16 PM
178	Leichhardt Council are very approachable in many ways now. For example, issues and problems concerning the local community, dialogue regarding community events involving arts, sport, parks & recreation etc. The council will listen and act favorably (where appropriate) to preserve and support a vibrant friendly, happy community. Now. With a mega council, I fear (like a corporation or government body that is large), often becomes "flabby" and distanced from (and therefore out of touch) with the community. For example, councilor is Ashfield will not be so in tune with an issue in Balmain will they? They are simply too far away to focus. The community will not have the access to councilors we have now. Issues and ideas will take far far longer to resolve, act on, or to approve. It will be a bad choice for the community, and a very sad thing if this goes ahead.	4/26/2015 7:16 PM
179	More focus on what is best for the local area, better equipped to respond accordingly.	4/26/2015 6:09 PM
180	We are a unique community with a heightened awareness and outstanding record of things that matter such as recycling, greenways, preventing overdevelopment, creativity and much more. We do not want these great aspects of our switched on society to be lost!	4/26/2015 5:58 PM
181	I am concerned that my representation will be significantly diminished in the event of this merger proceeding. That my local areas importance will be decreased along with the value of the individual votes within it. I am also worried that there will be further & sizeable rises to the costs of living in the area. Not all local residents are well heeled professionals.	4/26/2015 3:58 PM
182	Not enough information.	4/26/2015 1:35 PM
183	Evidence is that forced mergers very raely if ever work	4/26/2015 11:35 AM
184	The needs across each council area are varied & therefore maintaining an independent local council enables local needs to be met and prioritised for that area.	4/25/2015 3:28 PM
185	Although we live in an 'age of globalisation' we still need a sense of 'belonging' to a smaller community and with that comes the need for personal responsibility & accountability for the area in which we live. Despite the difficulties & failings of Local Councils, making high density residential areas even larger would only compound these failings and create an even greater sense of powerlessness in local residents.	4/25/2015 2:56 PM
186	Well look what has happened when our local police station closed. A couple of weeks ago a 470 bus backed imto a parked car outside our house at around 10 pm. The bus left the scene of the accident and did not stop or give their details. I called the police immediately and they said the first available car would attend. No one came at all and now the cars owner is forced to chase up as a civil matter. Where are police and where will our local pollies be.	4/25/2015 2:28 PM
187	It is able,on the whole,to respond to local needs,but there are also major concerns for me where LMC is prejudiced against our ward,so,if I was allowed to vote,I would join Paddy McGuiness (which I never thought I would ever do and vote for East Balmain's secession from LMC altogether.	4/24/2015 6:30 PM

188	Local representation in local issues Success in past representations on over development in the area Wider area council will need to focus on the broader issues of many diverse inner west areas and will be less in touch with the individual sub areas - which in turn means the local community will disengage with the issues that they are currently very active and involved with. The Leichhardt Municipality is already quite a diverse cross section of Sydney suburbs and as such, has a wide cross section of issues, building type and use, culture and ethnicity - but the Council has generally succeeded in representing the area well. Rather than amalgamate - there should be a CHOGM style inter-council group established which would provide economies of scale, coordination of streetscapes, Parramatta Road development, environmental issues etc.	4/24/2015 5:32 PM
189	Leichhardt has been able to maintain and develop its distinctive character since I have been there and a lot of the success can be attributed to having a local council.	4/24/2015 3:56 PM
190	I want Balmain to stay a village. It is unique and I do not want high rise units spoiling the area. Balmain is already over populated with no parking and not enough parks. We need a council that cares about US.	4/24/2015 11:18 AM
191	As shown with the Tigers development (or lack there of) it is important to have a local body looking after the interests of the local residents and infrastructure. The amalgamated council would be too far reaching to give this attention and will include areas that have incredibly different needs and priorities. This would see the needs of Leichhardt, Rozelle, Lilyfield and Balmain overlooked as these other suburbs do not have the historic building or harbour elements that require local knowledge and attention to ensure they continue to survive.	4/24/2015 9:10 AM
192	Forced amalgamation is a top down approach with a cost benefit outlook. this mean that local consideration will be over looked by the process, which means that community centric policies that have come about through generations of democratic process will be cut/removed with the stroke of a pen with no vote or discussion due to the by-law and caveats not being relevant to the state government or other parties in the merger. I have also given this answer to ashfield council as i live on the boundary of three affected councils.	4/24/2015 8:23 AM
193	The needs of an area are best understood by those that live in the area. Combining the councils would see a variety of representatives from various areas that may not have this areas best interests at the heart of all decisions. Although we are all classified as "inner west" I believe that our needs are vastly different as are the communities that reside there. There are numerous physical and social differences between all of the councils that are proposed to amalgamate. Identity and voice in the decision making process would definitely be lost. Does the world really need to "upsize" everything?	4/23/2015 9:03 PM
194	I have lived in Rozelle for 27 years now and although I can't say Leichhardt council is perfect they certainly do their very best. We do have great Councillor's and they all work tirelessly for the good of the residents. I am sure with Amalgamation it would be just too large an area for any councillors to be able to keep their eye on the ball as far as even knowing what the problems will be never mind helping to address them. I have no doubt other council would benefit from amalgamation with Leichhardt but it would be at the expense of Leichhardt as we know it now. I am very much against any Amalgamation.	4/23/2015 7:34 PM
195	They say Sydney is a city of villages: there's no village that is that big! I think keeping Leichhardt Council separate is best to preserve the identity of our area of Sydney. I also like the fact that the local government currently is very local. I can't see how a councillor from the other end of Canada Bay will have any idea about issues effecting Annandale. And I worry about the competing needs in each area.	4/23/2015 4:12 PM
196	Research has made it evident that change for the sake of efficiency is a cyclic phenomenon. Any system is prone to error. Dissatisfaction sets in when you have a prolonged system for too long and in the name of efficiency one tries to dismantle it. Take for instance capitalism. It's a failing model as there are more levels of inequality produced by it. To have a winner means there are more losers. And nobody likes to lose. When this mass gathers momentum the fall from office is rather loud. To bring down a tree for the sake of a few inefficient branches that have rot will do more harm than good. Instead it would be wise to focus on the current model that's working and add or subtract changes to the existing model to bring about change. The bigger the red tape bigger the less responsibility on the councillors. Like in any healthy bureaucracy you get to see parameters shift to suit ones purposes or objective. Thus begins a blame game where you have no winners.	4/23/2015 4:08 PM
197	1. More democratic society. 2. Job security for those currently employed by the Council and the flow-on effect to families in the area if it was amalgamated. 3. Leichhardt Library has already lost employees due to Leichhardt Council's installation of self-serve system and nothing beats face-to-face customer service. 4. Council accountability for their local area because shifting blame for things becomes easier at a higher level in a larger group. 5. It will take longer to resolve issues in an amalgamated area. 6. More and more our society is becoming the equivalent of an "Animal Farm" (ref. George Orwell) mentality so let us prevent that from happening rather than regretting it later.	4/23/2015 3:55 PM

198	I believe that issues that are dealt with by Councils are specific to their area. Sydney is not homogenous and has very different characteristics for different areas. Smaller councils are in tune with enough topics and issues with the size that they already are, and I believe that these things are dealt with best when kept to a manageable quantity.	4/23/2015 3:45 PM
199	History, great staff with great customer service and most local councillors who want to do thing by their local community	4/23/2015 3:18 PM
200	The local Council allows residents a greater say on issues that effect them than either a Mega Council, State or Federal representation. It's grass roots democracy at its best.	4/23/2015 1:01 PM
201	Local means local. Bigger does not always mean better. At times services are already stretched and I can't imagine that making a council bigger will result in better planning or services. The needs of people in Leichhardt is already diverse with many specific concerns over plans such as the developments around white bay.	4/23/2015 12:54 PM
202	Better service Accountability Better access to services Independence etc.	4/23/2015 11:12 AM
203	A stand alone council is more in touch with the needs and requirements of the residents and matters that are discussed by the council are primarily to benefit the local communities it serves.	4/23/2015 11:05 AM
204	The needs of Leichhardt residents overlap with those of the other inner west areas, but there are significant areas of difference. (My suburb has major impacts from central city traffic issues, from international travel issues with cruise ships, and from the intersection of heritage and environment controls around historic precincts with development pressures, to name a few.) A larger council will be less focused on these areas of difference, less able to represent our local concerns and less willing to devote resources to issues that will seem like much smaller minority issues in the face of a larger administrative unit.	4/23/2015 10:54 AM
205	Leichardt has a different demographic to the other areas, hence different needs. You need a council that will focus on those needs. If their was a mega council, they would be looking after all areas and there is a large risk that identity would disappear (same as Marrickville)	4/23/2015 10:05 AM
206	Mega councils mean less representation. We have Federal and State Governments for the big picture issues but only small local government councils can offer small picture representation. My needs in Leichhardt are very different to those of someone living in, say, Strathfield. Force amalgamations sounds like 21st century gerrymandering.	4/23/2015 10:04 AM
207	for a start, its not necessary to spend good taxes on reshuffling things around (as Shakespeare put it, 'if it be not brake then fix it not') , therefore the only obvious reason for amalgamating would be to make money from amalgamation via an 'economies of scale' scenario where the services provided by councils would be streamlined and possibly outsourced to the lowest tenderer. It is common knowledge that services suffer when this happens , not to mention public relations with one's own council. We all like to feel looked after by our very own service provider, and that is what a council is, essentially, why they spend our rates on what the community needs. We do not want the scenario of having to deal with a faceless, authoritarian body, which will be so big and unwieldy, staffed by overworked, underinspired public servants that we give up on having any power or playing any role in our own community. Is there a model somewhere in the world where this amalgamation of councils has shown to be more effective than the current model? I cannot imagine there is. .	4/23/2015 9:58 AM
208	Have seen elsewhere that amalgamations don't work.	4/23/2015 9:52 AM
209	Maintain community identity and representation.	4/23/2015 9:31 AM
210	My experience over the last 30 years living in Leichhardt the council generally is very positive in accepting feedback from residents. I have no reason to believe a mega council will improve this situation.	4/23/2015 8:04 AM
211	The research is clear about the benefits of staying small but viable as the community is able to have a small say in decision making and are able to have reasonable access to those in the Council and bureaucracy. The experience of other states make it clear that many of those who amalgamated then decided to revert back to smaller councils having realised the negative implications of larger Councils. The issues tend to be very different depending on the area and population style and size and so we may not get decisions relevant to our particular area.	4/23/2015 4:58 AM

212	Super-councils, just like super-police stations and super-government ministries promise a catch all approach but time and again prove that the supposed duplication of services doesn't exist and smaller local councils are more responsive and relevant. Taking planning permissions to a larger council is just the state government's ploy to help out their developer mates. Local communities need local councils. There's no need for some trumped up state government ministers to reinvent the wheel. We have ROCs for a reason - to oversea regional planning. Everything else is best some at a local level - infrastructure maintenance, parks and recreation areas, community services, waste management services, planning, etc. Locally based and run services may not be the absolute cheapest way to deliver service provision but we don't need the cheapest - we need best practice and the stellar jobs out local councils are doing should not be messed with. These corrupt developer stooges should not be able to make any changes to local government until the lot of them have been investigated by ICAC. It's bad enough that local services like women's refuges are being given over to bigger groups like the Salvation Army - it's another bad idea by morons (ministers) in the current state government. I despair. I really do. Nitwits in power at the state and federal level and Nile holding the balance of power. It's bad enough that I have to share a state with so many Bogan fuckwits. This is too much.	4/23/2015 4:49 AM
213	All of the councils affected have different cultures and issues to rally for. Local councils should stay small to ensure quality services for all residents.	4/23/2015 1:12 AM
214	An independent Leichhardt Council is more responsive to the problems specific to this area, with a Mega Council it's quite likely these would be overlooked in the context of problems of the wider area The Leichhardt area has its own very distinct and individual character, this would be lost within a larger entity. Residents of an independent Leichhardt Council are closer to their Council representatives and have greater access to them than would be the case with the Mega Council.	4/22/2015 9:59 PM
215	Having previously lived under Burwood Council, I am absolutely horrified to think that the wonderful controls that I've seen implemented by Leichhardt Council would somehow fall to the pathetic standards of those at Burwood Council.	4/22/2015 9:53 PM
216	This amalgamation would most likely lead to a decrease in participation in local government and democracy. It would largely be to the benefit of big developers who have been shown to have little or no interest in issues important to local communities. It might not be long before there is a McDonalds in many of these areas that have sought to keep them out, perhaps largely to the benefit of locally owned businesses. I suspect there were many ministers on both sides of the two major parties that were unhappy with Marrickvilles boycott campaign against Israel and other local initiatives such as those in the US which have seen local communities intact progressive environmental legislation in defiance of their state governments. A mega council will make all of these things harder. It seems part of the world wide neo liberal drift that values profits over people.	4/22/2015 9:28 PM
217	Because we are a close family community who like to be recognized for their own small individual reputation.Leichhardt will lose its warm and happy identity and work ethics.	4/22/2015 9:28 PM
218	I don't believe an amalgamation like this will adequately address local needs. And i suspect many services such as local libraries will be seen as superfluous or regarded as unnecessary duplication with a move to reduce the number of such facilities and amalgamate those services into one or two major libraries and close the rest. I also suspect that rates will rise and services will be cut with such a large area to cover. There has been evidence of corruption an d misuse of funds at one of the other major councils named in this proposed amalgamation and i do not want to see my rates falling into the hands of councils I don't trust. Leichhardt and Marrickville council both have excellent recycling programs and support many local creative groups and networks, they also seem to have a very good policy about urban development. I think these policies would also be jeopardized by a merger with less sympathetic councils. I hate the idea and I urge you to resist. I think this is a way for the state government to erode the power of councils in terms of urban planning and environmental care.	4/22/2015 7:33 PM
219	Because I trust the local council to think local. Mega councils in the UK are very unsuccessful. It should be sent to a referendum. If we have mega councils there is no need for state councils.	4/22/2015 7:05 PM
220	more control over finances for the area more say in addresseing local issues	4/22/2015 6:59 PM
221	I am happy with the current performance of Leichhardt Council. Amalgamation would result in less awareness of and responsiveness to local issues. I am not convinced that even the cost savings envisaged would result from amalgamation.	4/22/2015 6:50 PM
222	Don't be ridiculous You are a council you dont have an identity You waste money	4/22/2015 6:38 PM
223	Averaging out a range of issues can hide a multitude of sins. For example, If the active open space for Concord Council is averaged with Leichhardt, then the problem disappears without doing anything. With the increase in high rise and children increasingly living in high rise, the problem will worsen for Leichhardt in the coming years. With society demanding that both parents work, driving children out of Leichhardt for training sessions (soccer, netball, cricket, etc) becomes unworkable. Increasing traffic in peak hour.	4/22/2015 5:57 PM

224	Successful communities - socially and economically have been achieved with this council. Identity of the local region has been maintained. Economy of scale has been achieved and it is likely to be further enhanced with the likely increases in population and housing. This local region has been effectively managed resources and delivered services for its diverse communities.	4/22/2015 5:24 PM
225	Lose of social and local issues	4/22/2015 5:22 PM
226	There would be more benefits for local people to have there say on local issues	4/22/2015 5:11 PM
227	There is nothing wrong with the present system.	4/22/2015 3:57 PM
228	The services are fine now and don't need to change	4/22/2015 2:24 PM
229	Sheer familiarity with the Council area, some experience of local participation during Larry Hand's Mayoral Career. Leichhardt and especially Balmain have a joint history of poverty and associated politics, and, even now, despite the "new money" in Balmain, there is an almost visceral connection with the ethos of the past, and some determination to be "different". Would the swift, powerful action of the Council at the time of the death of the nurses, and the closure of the port facilities have been possible in a behemoth Joint Council? The Italian-ness of Leichhardt is rather more aligned with "struggle" than is the Italian-ness of say, Canada Bay. As is also the size of residential housing blocks, the availability of local shopping. just very little in common with say, Canada Bay. Balmain and Leichhardt have a solid working class background. We have a remarkable political history. The question is almost old-style political -- "What about the workers?"	4/22/2015 2:08 PM
230	Leichhardt council should be voluntarily amalgamating with a council such as city of Sydney that is more appropriate to amalgamate with. Thanks	4/22/2015 1:30 PM
231	An independent Council is better across local issues	4/22/2015 1:21 PM
232	The local council is supposed to be in touch with its residents and help the local community. The larger a council becomes, the less personal it becomes, which goes against what I believe a local council should be.	4/22/2015 12:47 PM
233	Service and closer to decision makers	4/22/2015 12:31 PM
234	Loss of identity, services and independence.	4/22/2015 12:12 PM
235	Our urban fabrics, character, histories, heritage areas and protections over past 40 years are more aligned. Some of the proposed other LGAs have, and have had, very iffy political decision making and beholden to questionable lobbies More aligned with Ashfield and Marrickville AND no no no to Canada Bay & Burwood	4/22/2015 12:03 PM
236	The merger covers too large an area and too great a population to be efficient. It is vital that rate-payers have personal contact to satisfy their needs. A large organisation brings anonymity with it.	4/22/2015 9:59 AM
237	I think local government needs to be small to be effective	4/22/2015 12:10 AM
238	The current Councils make sure decisions are made for the benefit and inclusion of the community. If the mega council goes ahead their may be less community input, independence and advocacy for residents. Decisions may not reflect what the residents really want. It may be a chance to consult the community less and push through decisions with less local community input and consideration. Decisions for one area of the inner west may also differ to another. Independent councils will best be able to advocate for their community to make important changes. It is important to treat each resident equally and make sure every policy is in fairness to them. I believe keeping independent councils makes sure this can happen for the mutual benefit of everyone.	4/21/2015 11:09 PM
239	Better representation that is aware of local issues and responsive to citizens concerns.	4/21/2015 10:32 PM
240	Eco friendly Listens to its residents Proactive Different voter preferences as evidenced by the last state election Impact of air craft noise has greatest impact here Impact of WestConnex	4/21/2015 10:23 PM
241	Our local Council caters for the needs of our community by providing programs and services relevant to us! I feel Leichhardt Council is a progressive Council offering more than just core Council services. I feel proud to tell people I live in Leichhardt and our local government authority is linked to that pride :)	4/21/2015 9:40 PM
242	To keep the focus on Leichhardt LGAS specific characteristics, features, issues and heritage. The larger the Council area the less importance placed on the specific characteristics of each unique suburb and what is important to each suburb. A Mega Council wouldn't have time to deal with the smaller and personal issues.	4/21/2015 9:38 PM
243	It is essential that Councillors are representative of their constituents. Ashfield,Burwood strathfield and canada bay have a very different demographic to the inner west and the reasons people have chosen to live here relate to their lifestyle choices	4/21/2015 8:32 PM

244	I want local people to maintain control of our area; a mega council will be prone to the influence of developers and other well-resourced lobby groups.	4/21/2015 8:06 PM
245	Closer relationship between residents and elected representatives who will know more and care more deeply about particular local issues, problems and strengths. More accountability with local representatives, as they live and work in the neighbourhood and participate in community fora. Easier access and more availability with local representatives, better working relationships and in fact, many residents become friends with the elected representatives through shared concerns. There is a shared local history, particularly when representing community concerns over important issues that continue to crop up from time to time, regardless of the political persuasion of the state government, such as planning legislation and regulations, public transport, roads and development controls.	4/21/2015 7:34 PM
246	The council will be more flexible in making decision in conjunction with the people, In a big council we will drown and our say will not be heard.	4/21/2015 4:59 PM
247	Local Council better able to respond to local needs. One question is the actual spread - presumably everything is south of the Parramatta River. Is any part south of the western reaches of the Harbour? And exactly how far - to the east? and to the west? and to the south? will the Mega Council extend?	4/21/2015 4:57 PM
248	Local know local. Mega council would lose sight of what's important for a locality.	4/21/2015 2:03 PM
249	I can't see any benefits from the amalgamation, and therefore it seems to me an unnecessary, expensive process that would achieve nothing.	4/21/2015 2:01 PM
250	I think we would loose our community feel and identity especially around the leichhardt and balmain area. We had so many great people making our suburbs great with the community too and I feel we would loose a lot of our funding, spirit and most of all our say in things. I will never support this type of attitude to changing our way of 'life' and our community who have done great things at all lengths for our COUNCIL!	4/21/2015 1:14 PM
251	I don't think the other councils are part of the "inner west" area as such, they are further away from the city therefore they also have very different priorities and needs.	4/21/2015 12:59 PM
252	1)-300k council would leave no personal contact at all ,leaving local council even more sterile and removed from my local area than ever. 2)-are the nsw. gov.going to legislate a different rate structure 3)-no open council. 4)- just as has happened in state gov. a massive local area would be open to more corruption .	4/21/2015 12:10 PM
253	as a disabled person I attend Access committee meetings and am listened to at Leichhardt I also went to Sydney City Council meetings but they petered off I do not think they were interested in the views of disabled people I am afraid a larger Council would not be able to consider small scale local issues with the same thoroughness as a smaller Council	4/21/2015 11:53 AM
254	The Leichhardt council area is one of the most exquisitely beautiful heritage areas left in the Sydney metropolitan region. Is is unique and should have a council that is not stretched to cover other ares that may not hold the same heritage values or concerns of our local region. I feel VERY strongly that Leichhardt council does a great job of maintaining the history of our area. They may cope some flack as being a difficult council to deal with, but it is their work that makes our region so sought after for it's rich tapestry of history and beauty. I can't image a 'mega council' having the same intimate knowledge and dedication when the area is simply part of a mammoth whole.	4/21/2015 10:49 AM
255	The cost of amalgamation could be better used to support residents; The existing council area is the right size in its ability to satisfy resident needs. A mega council would be unable to know each area intimately.	4/20/2015 11:08 PM
256	With the population in Leichhardt only due to rise because of the planned apartment buildings along Parramatta Road in the Leichhardt area, the current residents in Leichhardt would have in even less of a say if an amalgamation took place. Democratically, this is a retrograde development.	4/20/2015 10:52 PM
257	With a mega council services would be more spread out	4/20/2015 9:42 PM
258	Prevent increase in fees to cover other council areas debts/issues Loss of community spirit	4/20/2015 8:03 PM
259	-childcare availability will become even more scarce bc of the increased need with population - infrastructure planning would be less of a priority - council services would become more limited. Eg. Large goods pick up, rubbish pick ups would be restrained - there will no longer be specific needs for each zone that will be met.	4/20/2015 7:03 PM
260	Local needs understood by local people and local council	4/20/2015 4:21 PM
261	I don't think Leichhardt will lose it's identity. Certain logistical things may change, but Leichhardt and it's livelyhood should not change with this amalgamation.	4/20/2015 4:05 PM

262	More chance of keeping our local identity More chance of maintaining a sense of local community Hopefully, maintaining good services applicable to our area	4/20/2015 2:09 PM
263	-independent voice -gives the people more choice -stops larger bodies of business taking over localised environments. -more intimate care: for the environment, for the community, for education- access to schools/ childcare/ university, population issues, access to transport, and health. -as one large 'Mega Council' it will alter the statistical knowledge of the inner west, and as it says in its title, push everyone under the same brush stroke. In a growing population, especially in such a sought for area of the inner city, there is going to be more and more needs, how are these needs to be met in such a merged vision?	4/20/2015 2:09 PM
264	The LGA will retain its individual character. Residents will have more control/say in what happens in LGA.	4/20/2015 1:35 PM
265	Amalagmating in a mega council would mean less focus on real local issues. There are many differences between the existing council local government areas that just can't be managed by one council. We would become more regional instead of local When organisations change so much it can take years before the new organisation is effective. In the meantime we will not be the focus of the council. A mega council will need a mega structure similar to a larger corporation. This could lead to difficulty in communicating both within and outside the council There are many other reasons why I really disagree with the amalgamation of councils.	4/20/2015 1:01 PM
266	The council has done a number of great things in my local area (North Annandale) with which my family and I are very happy. I would be concerned that a megacouncil would be too bureaucratic and would not be able to maintain this level of local involvement.	4/20/2015 12:39 PM
267	It is impossible to say either way without understanding more about how a new mega council would operate.	4/20/2015 12:34 PM
268	Independence Do no lose local focus on issues in my area. My rates etc. being focused to my area. Better government	4/20/2015 12:34 PM
269	for the following reasons: lost of area identity probably some services would be down sized probably cost more in rates council approvals could get convoluted less user friendly in a big amalgamation	4/20/2015 12:30 PM
270	I do not feel that Leichhardt council is a very strong council (as have previously lived in the Leichhardt area) and I am currently a part of the marrickville council area which I feel is much more involved with community interests and more effective. I feel Leichhardt council needs to become more conscientious, efficient and fair to the population of the Leichhardt area. It worries me that the influence of Leichhardt council will impinge on better functioning councils. I also feel a mega council will be less efficient and effective for specific local areas.	4/19/2015 11:23 PM
271	There's a better chance of a left-leaning council with policies that take care of people and the environment (this arises out of the demographics of the suburbs which LMC represents). LMC has fought the environmental/planning issues which are so important to us locally and a bigger council wouldn't care. A bigger council doesn't necessarily mean more efficiencies - it can lead to yet more bureaucracy and costs. I don't trust the State Government (of any persuasion generally) vis a vis local government.	4/19/2015 11:10 PM
272	Unique character of the area and benefits of local approach to delivery of services	4/19/2015 11:02 PM
273	Retain identity and funding specific to this council & not diluted.	4/19/2015 7:21 PM
274	What's the point! If the merged entity is going to be so big then why not just have a State Government and forget about local government altogether. As usual it seems to be a typically poorly thought out approach by a Coalition State Government that hasn't consulted widely, or at all probably, and doesn't have much of an idea about what it's doing. As usual it looks like they think that doing something, anything, especially when it is line with a Coalition mantra, provides a perception of moving forward when it is fairly obviously likely to end up with quite the opposite result. A merged entity would be so so big and spread across so many suburbs and areas etc that it would be impossible for it to have any real form of local representation or concerns about one area as opposed to another area. How would these competing interests be sensibly managed. The merger won't even have any significant effect on the infrastructure shortfall.	4/19/2015 6:39 PM
275	Local councils understand local issues. More accountability if local Funds from rates should go only for the local area not pooled to resource a larger region	4/19/2015 6:23 PM

276	No the algamation means better services than the present meaning that we may get better services from lazy librarians and lazy library staff getting paid for appearance money. A coronial enquiry into library savings and cutting costs would be great snd that self service crap system abolished. Library needs good service like the shining example of the Surrey Hills library who go out of their way for library patrons. What ever the reader or vidieo user appreciates. they get it in to borrow, that is exceptional not available in self service so the algamation means that lazy facilities will close snd no longer be e burden on the taxpayer Hooray for progress sack the lazy people to azy to serve!about time someone got a good idea to many jobs are lost by self service and thats bad news for service. If a place dont want to serve close it very simole than god for progress sack lazy people getting paid for being lazy. U lost me.......	4/19/2015 6:22 PM
277	I am very happy with the way the council looks after us now. They know the local issues and any concerns I have had so far have been quickly addressed eg.garbage collections/bins. I feel we would be lost in a mega council. I work in an organisation that amalgamated state branches into national, and the bigger system is clunky with not enough communication with the branches, and heavy handed ness by the branch that feels they have the most might and power, but not necessarily the best systems. This sort of scenario could well happen in a mega council.	4/19/2015 6:18 PM
278	Local council local interests first Just another cost cutting exercise that doesn't consider the individual or their community Do not believe the area is reflective of the other councils that we would be merging with - Sydney City would be a better choice if we had to merge	4/19/2015 5:48 PM
279	It is hard enough to get things through council when it is a small council, it would be worse if it was big	4/19/2015 5:22 PM
280	Knowledge of local needs - a big beurocracy will result from an amalgamation with increased costs,waste and less service	4/19/2015 4:44 PM
281	A large council would create huge waiting lists for development etc .. Smaller is better for local counc	4/19/2015 4:31 PM
282	I use the facilities within this area, this includes supporting local business and using local dog friendly parklands. I do not use any of the facilities in these other council areas, why would i want any monies raised through my local municipality/area to go towards any of the facilities that i do not use. I also fear local council implemented strategies will be overturned e.g.: half hour free parking scheme, this may be returned to its previous model as a way to raise further monies.	4/19/2015 3:32 PM
283	There is NO sensible reason for Leichhardt Council to stand alone. It needs to amalgamate, and as soon as practically possible.	4/19/2015 1:24 PM
284	I don't understand how this could benefit us the residents of Leichhardt council, i have not heard of this process before and not sure whether it has been proven to be successful on such a large scale. The only people I see that gain from this would be the government, how about the benefits to the residents etc etc ???? Thank you Jacquie	4/19/2015 12:51 PM
285	Leichhardt, Balmain and Birchgrove are Inner West suburbs and I don't agree with Strathfield, Asshfield, Burwood, Marrickville as being called Inner West suburbs. Strathfield is closer to Auburn & Parramatta than Leichhardt. We have enough issues with the road campaigns closing in and count the buses any time of the day in Norton Street. We are not being heard, how would we be with Strathfield continually called the Inner West, which it often is anyway, but happens to be miles away from Leichhardt. We may as well add Concord and Croydon. I would definitely vote to keep Leichhardt as is!!	4/19/2015 12:47 PM
286	We should be focusing more on specific needs of groups within particular communities - it seems hard to differentiate needs and services across a broader area, with a much larger population. I feel that many services may be lost if the 'mega council' were to go ahead. Surely smaller, area-specific councils can best cater for their own unique communitites.	4/19/2015 11:23 AM
287	This is the most efficient and democratic way to operate as a Council, and only way to properly service the people within the Council area. Less power and control of monies, budgets and access to collected taxes will occur if Leichhardt Council loses its independent power to operate.	4/19/2015 11:21 AM
288	To encourage the 'village' model of living, where the Council can have a local, informed approach.	4/19/2015 11:08 AM
289	I want Leichhardt to remain a standalone council but if the forced amalgamation goes ahead I think the Balmain peninsula should be amalgamated with City of Sydney as Glebe did years ago. As a resident of Balmain East I relate and frequent Sydney city not so Marrickville, Ashfield etc.	4/19/2015 10:46 AM
290	Just look at what those other councils have done in terms of hihg density property development. That would destroy the nature of Balmain.	4/19/2015 10:04 AM
291	Sensitivity to local issues Knowledge of the area Senn to be representing the local population	4/19/2015 8:39 AM

292	I feel that the decisions that are made are local, which is what councils should be. Our legislature works from the ground up, starting with local councils, moving to state and then commonwealth government. this was set up to ensure checks and balances in the system. Amalgamating local into mega councils is a bit like suggesting we should get rid of the states and let the commonwealth take care of everything. Experience in QLD with the late and not lamented Cambell Newman, shows the amalgamation into large councils is universally opposed, and loses the individuality of each locale.	4/18/2015 7:00 PM
293	A local council better serves an areas needs and wishes by having local knowledge, rather than decisions being made by councils far from the actual area concerned. Merging will also reduce the opportunity for resident input and action.	4/18/2015 6:18 PM
294	The breadth of neighbourhoods included in the proposed merger have different identities and very different needs - local council should be focused on local needs if the council area gets too big then it starts to operate like another layer or government rather than administering the local services. What maybe saved in combining service provision will be lost in additional administration and layers of management to deal with such a large population across a very broad geography.	4/18/2015 5:47 PM
295	I have felt fortunate to live in the Leichhardt Municipality for the past 30-plus years, and never more so than today as our Council seems to me to be competent, honest and accessible. It shines among the many stories of dodgy or stupid behaviour by other councils.	4/18/2015 4:59 PM
296	I know nothing of the pros & cons of the proposed amalgamation, but contemporary history suggests that the larger the body, the more unwieldy, impersonal & dysfunctional it becomes.	4/18/2015 2:42 PM
297	Mega Councils do not have successful track records in country NSW. Community is already a dying concept in Australia - more anonymity by larger area councils is a further nail in the community care coffin	4/18/2015 1:27 PM
298	In my opinion, the independant councils reflect the requirements of their respective communities. I can't imagine what right any State Government has to pass legislation that forces coucil amalgamations. The State Planning Authority has TOO much POWER Already. It clearly favours Developers that donate money in behind closed doors deals. Examples of mis-informed judgements are rife in politics. A Mega Council would be a lot easier to CONTROL from Macquarie St, probably having the same political calling. Democracy is threatened frequently. I won't relinquish my right of freedom of speach. Local council no longer has authority to govern placement of domestic airconditioning compressors. This is VERY open-slather in practice. A mis-positioned compressor doesn't need to be redressed any more. The Polititions that pass legislation never seem to be affected by the flow-on. I don't want councillors to become Untouchables.	4/18/2015 1:09 PM
299	We need access to a council that has an interest and knowledge in this specific area	4/18/2015 1:02 PM
300	I prefer to have a smaller Council, more attuned to the residents of the area. I am also concerned about THISparticular amalgamation as I see a lot of flats and high rise development in areas such as Ashfield and Strathfield and fear that there will more of a push for our local are to increase medium/high density housing.	4/18/2015 10:34 AM
301	Greater focus on local issues Understanding of the local area and therefore better decision making Hopefully, lower density development that suit the local area Reduced costs, larger councils mean higher salaries and therefore increased rates Smaller Council areas enable residents to have better access to Council staff and elected representatives	4/18/2015 9:31 AM
302	Small is better - focused on the local neighbourhood	4/18/2015 9:30 AM
303	The wording of your questions is very biased and the results of the survey should be ignored unless you can present the facts and not the emotion to the survey respondents.	4/18/2015 9:28 AM
304	We have a unique population that has different needs to the other areas that we would merge with and currently already feel Council does not do enough to find out what their rate payers actually want to send happen in this area and take responsibility for making day to day living manageable. Eg parking meters in side streets so friends have to pay to visit. Having a residential parking sticker that covers the whole of the Council area. Not letting high rise developmental go through without proper surveys to see impact of traffic flow eg Terry St and the Crescent developments and proposed White Bay. We need more transparency and real surveys that we can come together to discuss issues raised.	4/18/2015 7:22 AM
305	I have always had sayisfactory service from Leichhardt Council in all my requests.I feel this would be lost in amalgmation	4/18/2015 1:45 AM
306	I fear further inappropriate unattractive development such as the so called Rozelle Village project &other awful developments would have greater chance of success under a mega council.	4/18/2015 12:32 AM
307	Better representation of our local area and community	4/18/2015 12:22 AM

308	Lesser ratio of council leaders to residents so it means we're given more attention	4/18/2015 12:18 AM
309	You've done a great job within your means of looking after the social and public spaces in this area. I would hate us to lose that ability - especially as other councils don't seem to respond so well to local community concerns (at least, that's how it seems, in my opinion). In particular, I'm thinking in particular of our native planting programs; your willingness to stand up to developers; connecting communities.	4/17/2015 10:51 PM
310	Better services suited to local community	4/17/2015 9:55 PM
311	Council is doing good work Local identity not regional lack of detail	4/17/2015 9:32 PM
312	Local councils work when residents know their representatives and their representatives are truly local and have a vested interest and local knowledge.	4/17/2015 8:27 PM
313	Local counsellors and Council staff are aware of local issues. A megacouncil would make it harder to access people who understand what is proposed and happening in Leichhardt.	4/17/2015 7:21 PM
314	Independence Smaller and more manageable More knowledgable of local issues More grassroots	4/17/2015 7:15 PM
315	Yes. Inclusive community.	4/17/2015 6:03 PM
316	The council meets the needs of the area and has made many improvements. I don't think that this will remain the same if a large council was developed	4/17/2015 5:46 PM
317	Retains quality of service Council stays focussed on local area Easy access to Council, whereas other council areas would not be as accessible if centre were to move Rates paid in Leichhardt stay in Leichhardt for benefit of local community I personally see no benefit in a mega council covering more people & area I believe the surrounding councils work well enough together as per current setup	4/17/2015 5:26 PM
318	Communities are important and need to be a manageable size for community members to engage.	4/17/2015 4:56 PM
319	The proposed areas are very different in demographic and needs. An attempt to cater to the needs of one area would be inappropriate for the others and blanket changes/rules/improvements over such a large area turn out usually to not work for any of the parties. As separate areas the individual councils are best able to know the needs or their area and how to best work for a suitable solution.	4/17/2015 4:40 PM
320	History, independence, the local inflection based on slightly different demographic make of area. Better degree of self determination if Leichhardt remains independent.	4/17/2015 3:47 PM
321	When you're a small part of a big whole you have to fight for attention because you get overlooked. Any child in a large family can tell you that isn't good.	4/17/2015 3:37 PM
322	more direct involvement	4/17/2015 3:08 PM
323	Leichhardt City Council is one of the Sydney's oldest councils. This council has a unique Character and a history. This is very impotent to preserve the character and culture of the Balmain area. Due to the state governments' poor policies and miss managements in the past, the residents of the Leichhardt city council area are already suffering due to some difficulties such as very narrow streets, lack of public car parking, less number of places in public schools and a number of other issues. I have a feeling that the state government and the politicians have no intention to create more felicities and make the life easy for the Australians but their intentions are vice versa.	4/17/2015 2:55 PM
324	1. no reason to think that it will be cost effective and every reason to believe that it will lead to less of a say in the decisions which impact on our everyday lives. 2. the mega council would not reflect the community. we chose to live in Leichhardt LGA for a number of reasons we did not choose to live in Canada Bay or Marrickville and want to maintain our elected representatives.	4/17/2015 2:49 PM
325	Having only moved to the area in the past 2 years, I could have never imagined such a wonderful place to live close to a city. I am constantly amazed and impressed by the councils services and facilities, the high standards these are maintained at and the wonderful sense of community and pride this fosters. I have driven through other areas listed here previously, and lived in one other council area. None of them represent the kind of community I want to live in. Their residents may very well say the same about Leichhardt. I am a pragmatists and understand that there may be savings from the amalgamation of services and providers, though job cuts and the like. However, I would rather pay a premium on my rates that lose my community identity.	4/17/2015 2:36 PM
326	My reason: I don't know enough to understand the implications so prefer to keep status quo. Also cannot see how community can function if it is mid-size city population of 350,000. There is already too little citizen participation and such a structure would be alienating. Please can we keep a local council?	4/17/2015 2:28 PM

327	Leichhardt is a very good, strong council with excellent environmental procedures and policies. Good community engagement. This would all be lost in the mega-amalgamation. It is important that a council connects with the area it serves, which is not possible when it covers such a large area as proposed by the amalgamation process. The council needs to be able to serve the needs of its residents, and the population of Leichhardt Council area is quite distinct from that of the other council areas of the proposed amalgamation. It would also not be possible to maintain any sense of history or continuity if Leichhardt Council were to be subsumed. Basic council services, such as waste collection, would decline in standards with the huge area being covered from one distant, centralised outpost.	4/17/2015 2:00 PM
328	Some councils could end up sidelined from funding and decision making. It potentially creates a two level system: councils that are in favour with government and those that aren't.	4/17/2015 12:47 PM
329	Local Council are able to incorporate the views of the people. A large council is similar to the State Government. It is too big to know local issues.	4/17/2015 12:40 PM
330	I think that all the councils have very different populations and very different requirements of their council beyond the basics of roads, garbage etc. Marrickville is a council with greater ' Green ' / environmental requirements of the council and I do not think that will remain under more conservative councils such as Burwood. I also feel that we have more say in a smaller council and the state government is only wanting this to happen on a supposed economic advantage.	4/17/2015 12:39 PM
331	Leichhardt Council is an excellent and efficient council that caters extremely well to the needs of it's local population. The amalgamation would result in a loss of the above and a huge council, most probably unbridled development with no consideration of the unique character of the Inner West. Please don't do this!!!	4/17/2015 12:36 PM
332	Sure of representation for the area. Politically expedient for the residents	4/17/2015 12:31 PM
333	I'm not sure what the reality would be in regards to how it would affect each individual. They may run it or better. There is always room for improvement in services and councils are renowned for poor service in the area of residential and business building/construction, for example. For example, Would a merge help or hinder this from the view point of the people? I do notice that the bigger an organisation becomes the service quality tends to drop. I'm undecided.	4/17/2015 12:18 PM
334	I need more information as to what is proposed before I make an informed decision	4/17/2015 11:25 AM
335	The proposed amalgamation would reduce representation significantly. The ratios would change from the current 4700 residents per councillor to 22000 residents per councillor. This would give the residents of Leichhardt less access to councillors and less opportunity for their voice to be heard. The forced amalgamation would lead to an increase in council rates (based on land values) which is not acceptable. We moved from Ku-ring-gai Council to leichhardt Council 18 months and were drawn to the area for its sense of community and vibrant and diverse culture and the amenities provided by the council. There is significant difference in managing the locale with higher population density per sq. km. e.g Leichhardt than an area with lower population density with minimal high rise, wider streets etc. Control of heritage areas may be diluted. The costs of the amalgamation are not known and the model is based on estimates which may not match the outcome if the amalgamation proceeds. The cultural, employment, structural change of the council will change if the amalgamation proceeds. I am an economic rationionalist and understand the need to be viable. Has a mega council in another region been undertaken that can be used as a test case for the purpose of systems, structure, people, residents and costs? This should occur with councils of similar cultural and demographic profile first then the modelling be carried out on more diverse areas. This should not be rushed.	4/17/2015 11:15 AM
336	Firstly I am not concerned with Leichhardt Council but Marrickville Council becoming amalgamated with all the other councils. I would like to know more information about the merger before I can comment. I presume it is to save money so rates would increase and services would be cut. If it means our footpaths will be renewed where tree roots have lifted the concrete, nature strips cut on a regular basis, trees lopped so as the branches don't interfere with electricity and phone cables and household rubbish removed after a single phone call and any request be attended to promptly and rates not increased I might be in favour of the amalgamation but somehow I can't see that happening if staff is reduced etc. etc. Who will be the Mayor?	4/17/2015 10:55 AM
337	Every local council area as it stands currently has it's own identity, it's own social and cultural needs, it's own historical significance, nae is managed very very well. If we amalgamate we would DEFINITELY look part of our own identities. I have spoken to friends throughout the entire Sydney area and every single person is in agreeance that our own council identifies our own areas and our own identities, own own cultural diversity, and our own Councillors who have a complete understanding of their micro-community. Plus teh West is expanding, so the 'mega Council' will only have their resources get thinner and thinner	4/17/2015 10:50 AM

338	I have seen the amalgamation of country councils in South Australia, the rates increase with less objectives achieved. Development of and issues that need to be fixed occur in the areas who have the most representatives on the council. Also politics come into play and items such as roads are built at unnecessary cost when there is a similar parallel road a short distance away in say the next council area. You do not have the achievements and benefits when run by an amalgamated council. It is just like big business they do what they want, where they want.	4/17/2015 10:45 AM
339	The proposed mega council will be far too large both in number of people and geographically to retain a local focus on our neighbourhood. Also our current council has done an excellent job with the local environment, park maintenance and initiatives such as White Creek precinct which provides a very healthy, sustainable place to live. It actively supports the heritage of our locale, history and I do not have any reason or proof to show that a huge council will be interested in focusing on the smaller neighbourhood. Our area includes the harbour foreshore and this needs nuanced focus which a smaller council will do better than a huge one - from experience, bigger committees do NOT make better decisions. I do not trust the current state government planning for the harbour foreshore and already worry about over populating an area where public transport is failing. There is no proof at all that this move for a mega council will benefit US, the ratepayers and the people who elect governments.	4/17/2015 10:32 AM
340	As an independent council Leichhardt would be more aware of the wishes and needs of the people who live here	4/17/2015 10:30 AM
341	Small is beautiful and lower the rates	4/17/2015 10:24 AM
342	The council would be more responsive to local needs and issues.	4/17/2015 10:02 AM
343	I want the Council to continue to be responsible for this locality and accessible to it's residents .Otherwise we cease to have a say in the development of our community .	4/17/2015 9:51 AM
344	I value that Leichhardt council works for local residents & provides an physical & emotional environment in which I enjoy living. Our representatives are accessible & strongly represent our community. I don't want this to change where there will be a shift to more control by State Govt, especially where developers are concerned & the legal vandalism of ' being open for business'.	4/17/2015 9:38 AM
345	I am hoping that the council remains appropriately resourced and responsive to residents. A smaller council seems better placed to address area specific issues.	4/17/2015 9:13 AM
346	More personalised decisions	4/17/2015 8:15 AM
347	Local councils should know and care about the area they look after. An area bigger than Leichhardt municipality would have no local identity and residents and the council would not have a lot in common.	4/17/2015 7:49 AM
348	A mega council will simply be too large to adequately consider the requirements for the many different locales. There is a severe risk that one size fits all solutions will ruin neighbourhood amenity and beauty. Access to councillors will be a thing of the past with a mega council. Local individuality will be completely lost under a mega council - the bureaucratisation of processes, lack of access to council, cookie cutter outcomes effectively result in a 'sterilisation' of our life style.	4/17/2015 3:12 AM
349	It caters for the needs that are specific for the area. We have ability to communicate effectively with them and they with us. They understand the area and the needs and culture. Each area has things that are specific to it and each council can do what is necessary and right for the area. It has been effective elsewhere why wreck something that works and cost more money to change a system that works.	4/16/2015 11:51 PM
350	So it would be able to work around for residents who live in the certain area, not for the residents from glebe to strathfield. In the massive area, what people need would be diverse and a mega council won't work well.	4/16/2015 11:45 PM

351	The benefits of amalgamation are best compared to the benefits of privatisation of public utilities. Probably not much. Local Councils are an integral part of the three levels of our democracy and they are supposed to be just that! "Local". They are supposed to be run by 'locals' for 'locals'. Mega Councils will naturally be run like big business. Super salaries will be paid to the senior execs. Probably more than the Prime Minister in the case of the CEO. I have experience of the amalgamations in Victoria and can report that that senior salaries are stratospheric and rates have increased tenfold in fifteen years. Local Councils are hugely important venues for the ventilation of local arguments that should not occupy other shires. For example the debate about parking meters and restrictions on and around Darling Street was a particularly local argument that was resolved by a lot of robust 'local' argument. This sort of solution is unlikely to progress under a MegaCouncil. There is a lot of talk and concern about elements of society breaking down and making our world unliveable. Partly this is because our sense of community is being lost. We need our individual suburbs and we need to identify with them. This sense of identity relating to the very local allows us also to be part of the larger whole which is our nation. If we essentially end up with a big business running our megacouncil we can expect to wait 30 minutes on hold when we ring, and pensioners ringing with a minor complaint will find themselves talking to someone in an outsourced call-centre. Councils used to be an important part of our community by providing work. A big business approach and 'efficiency' will destroy this and throw the baby out with the bathwater. It is not about money. It is about how we live!	4/16/2015 11:08 PM
352	Hard to say one way or another when not all information to hand.	4/16/2015 11:01 PM
353	all services delivered by council will deteriorate creating the current trend of mega everything, a council represents a local area and this fact makes it easier for the community to communicate and work along with the council to find solutions to local issues.	4/16/2015 10:54 PM
354	Leichhardt Council covers a very large area now. For residents there are specific issues relating to the historical, environmental, geographical, planning, housing, demographic, topographical, commercial, transport and amenity features of the LGA that makes up the municipal area of Leichhardt. These specific features would make it impossible to amalgamate with other councils without losing all the benefits of living in Leichhardt, that have been accumulated over hundreds of years by the hard work of our ancestors. It would be a tragedy to lose what Leichhardt Council represents to all of us.	4/16/2015 10:36 PM
355	It's important that people in the area decide what happens in the area, rather than people who have no idea.	4/16/2015 9:58 PM
356	Better services More localised needs	4/16/2015 9:46 PM
357	So council can maintain focus on issues relative to the area. Smaller area is more manageable by council. Councilors would have more intimate knowledge of the areas under their care. Leichhardt area is currently quite diverse within itself therefore requires a council that identifies with this nature.	4/16/2015 8:52 PM
358	Our streetscapes and building development requirements are different across these catchments. I fear these will be compromised. Community needs and requirements differ.	4/16/2015 8:46 PM
359	because I feel we need things to stay how they are	4/16/2015 8:29 PM
360	I feel that not just Leichhardt Council, but all other Councils involved should stay independent as is. My reason is that each area/suburbs are all individual and what may suit one area/suburb, would not suit another.	4/16/2015 7:36 PM
361	Good services already and understanding of local needs.	4/16/2015 7:25 PM
362	I am aware of the economies of scale involved in amalgamation but I feel strongly that - each of these local councils has a very strong individual character which would be lost in amalgamation - the different demographics in the disparate parts of such a huge area would make it impossible for local issues to get a fair hearing - or, more probably, any hearing	4/16/2015 7:23 PM
363	I have lived in Annandale for almost 40 years and while Leichhardt Council isn't perfect I find it provides an excellent service. Its response time is usually good and I like the 'personal' service that I have received. My experience with big entities is not good. There can be a lack of caring and each time you ring you get a difference person etc. The economies of scale never seem to eventuate and services are cut instead.	4/16/2015 7:21 PM
364	While I support economies of scale in principle, I see no advantage in the proposed rush to form a mega-council in which the Leichhardt community--along with Ashfield, Burwood, Canada Bay, Marrickville and Strathfield too--would surely lose its historic identity and a sense of community that we presently share.	4/16/2015 6:48 PM
365	Already Leichhardt Council is big enough and I worry about the bureaucracy that could be involved in this amalgamation. There may be savings of scale, but that needs to be matched against the diversity within these current local government areas. I fear for a remoteness and a possible loss of local interests in such a mega council. I am a little shocked that such a proposal involves so many councils. Mega is not always better.	4/16/2015 6:45 PM

366	individualised community identity maintained if any amalgamation - look at options e.g. with marrickville or with newtown, which are progressive areas and more inner city style as opposed to other councils more suburban, or say with hunters hill and lane cove..... a bays precinct councils. Massive population reach in other councils such as canada bay and strathfield have different needs from a more inner city environ. Loss of heart of community and work in maintaining responsive cultural, education and housing services. Having also experience a large city like city of sydney, while effective, for inner city suburbs it is also someone of a homogonenised style with some trendsetting examples. so in effective we lose identity and just become a metro -polis.	4/16/2015 6:25 PM
367	I live in Woolwich. I think out inner city councils should retain their identity. Shared resources are the answer to savings not massive impersonal mega councils	4/16/2015 6:10 PM
368	We wouldn't have the representation we have at the moment. Not so easy to get to talk to council staff. What is the proposed money saved to be spent on? This has not been made clear. Why has this group of 6 existing councils been chosen - why not 2? why not 12?	4/16/2015 6:07 PM
369	More responsive to community issues.	4/16/2015 6:07 PM
370	A large mega amalgamation means: : less personal access and interaction with Council staff/councillors; : less staff/councillors working for my immediate area; : less commitment by Council staff who live in the immediate area to large planning proposals that also impact on them; : my Council would probably no longer be within walking distance; : more bureaucracy means less individual access and less service; : Council meetings open to the public would be horrible and unlike the current face to face meetings.	4/16/2015 5:59 PM
371	It is a Green council It works well for the area Personalised	4/16/2015 5:55 PM
372	Each council have the responsibility of looking after their own communities - if the council is amalgamated, the sense of community spirit and support will be lost in the mix of things.	4/16/2015 5:48 PM
373	Our local area has specific needs and concerns and is a unique area which needs its own representative council to address. At present Leichhardt Council does a great job in meeting the needs of our area and does so in a wholistic, progressive and efficient manner. I feel that the community has a voice with the council and it remains open and accessible to the community and really cares about the specific and special needs of its residents. Leichhardt council's make up represents it constituants perfectly and has found the right balance between development and conservation.Its services are clearly tailored to our specific needs. Amalgamation would very much threaten this positive, personal and unique relationship to our community. I feel we would become a very small cog in a huge wheel and our needs would not be met and our specific problems and concerns would be less important in the big picture.	4/16/2015 5:43 PM
374	Because in an era of globalisation, local and particular knowledge has never been more important.	4/16/2015 5:31 PM
375	As long as we have a State Government, I believe we need to keep local government areas small enough for residents to have a say in the affairs of the local council. I would only consider supporting Mega Councils if we did away with State Governments altogether. That is clearly not going to happen, so I prefer retaining smaller local government.	4/16/2015 5:22 PM
376	If an amalgamation is inevitable, can it be made smaller with only the 3 nearest councils? I really don't think Strathfield council had the same spirit as the Inner West nor does Burwood. Canada Bay seems a little out of the way. Would the government agree to this sort of deal?	4/16/2015 5:19 PM
377	Local government needs to be very responsive both to individuals and to the particular context of the area; for this reason local government areas need to cover relatively small populations and geographic/social areas.	4/16/2015 5:13 PM
378	Less of a say in development proposals Less concern for village lifestyle lack of appropriate response to citizens concerns Lack of speedy response to citizens concerns concern that larger Council will concentrate purely on money side and not on maintaining heritage of the historic areas Forced increase in high rise Forced increase in population Increase in road congestion and response rate slower to residents concerns	4/16/2015 5:04 PM
379	Leichhardt Council is incredibly responsive to local issues and remains engaged with all aspects of local life. A mega council would remove all these benefits.	4/16/2015 4:51 PM
380	To be honest I would rather Leichhardt be part of Sydney City Council as we are closer and it is a FAR more proactive forward thinking council. Far more environmentally savvy and far more in keeping with the objectives of this area. We are an inner city area and therefore issues are different to those dealt with in an inner city living situation, far different to those dealt with in the more suburban areas of Canada Bay, Strathfield and Ashfield.	4/16/2015 4:48 PM
381	Uniqueness of the area.	4/16/2015 4:40 PM
382	Easier for the local community to deal directly with a council that is nearby. Feel that a mega council could be less accountable	4/16/2015 4:33 PM

383	I would much prefer Leichhardt Council remain as it has always been without an amalgamation. I am a voter of the Australian Labor Party and so we need to do what we can and work through four years without changing that would damage living standards. We must persevere and battle on through the times of now that will improve. I am always a optimist through any issues like the above.	4/16/2015 4:04 PM
384	I dont have enough information and have requested it above. The questions I would be asking are: - What does Leichhardt have in common with Ashfield? Nothing. - what is the debt situation of the various councils? Does Leichhardt owe a lot of money and will that impact on rates? - Leichhardt is much closer to city than other suburbs. We have White Bay to influence. I would not like to be bulldozed by a bigger council on White Bay issues.	4/16/2015 3:51 PM
385	so that the people of the Leichhardt Municipality have more of a voice about things in their area and if there were a Mega Council things in our area would take a lot longer to get done. don't see why we need to change things...	4/16/2015 3:45 PM
386	Believe there would be less councillors resulting in less representation per head of population. Less control on development. Little financial savings or economies of scale as existing depots in the different areas would still be required. Similarly offices would need to be maintained at various locations to handle customer service issues. Otherwise residents will be traveling long distances for council services. Bigger does not necessarily mean better. Things like service to residents is of primary importance. In a mega council there will be a loss of amenity, particularly for residents of the existing Leichhardt Council. Does Leichhardt and Marrickville have much in common with Ashfield Burwood Canada Bay and Strathfield?	4/16/2015 3:43 PM
387	To have an amalgamated Council would be disadvantageous for all the suburbs involved because of the political demographic. It would also mean those that talk the loudest will be heard and all others ignored.	4/16/2015 3:41 PM
388	. This move would disenfranchise individuals - or at least make the individual voice harder to hear, in a much bigger organisation. . There is no evidence, as far as I know, to say that bigger organisations are either more efficient (in terms of the services they provide) or more Democratic. Bigger 'businesses' may employ less people and so provide more profit, but the aim of local government should be to provide services that the rate payers want and have paid the council to provide. . At the same time as the State Government is proposing 'bigger is better' with local government area councils, they are driving 'local schools, local decisions' in the Education sector, presumably because they believe that it is better to make decisions closer to where they are being implemented (!) Which position do hey hold? . I assume the government also believe that they will save money by the amalgamations - but will it? The costs of 'consultants', redundency payments, recruitment for new positions and new branding are high - never mind the human costs of unemployment and uncertainty. It takes several years, after a big restructure for networks to be established and things to return to smooth working order (if they ever do - try finding out who does what in a government department now!) . If it 'ain't broke why fix it'. i.e.If council services are working and people are happy with it why change the whole system? If so e councils are struggling to make ends meet - look at what it is a out them that needs improvement, rather than foisting change onto all. . I believe this is part of an ideological change, rather than a necessary one. I don't think we should have a bar of it!	4/16/2015 3:36 PM
389	we tick all the boxes bar one for what is required to be considered viable in the long term. Merging with other councils will make us weaker, not stronger. We would do better to have strong urban councils partner with under-resourced regional councils to make local councils stronger everywhere.	4/16/2015 3:35 PM
390	We have an enviable and historic record of community consultation and participation. I don't want to lose that. Our community is small and village like and its a big reason why its such a great place to live. amalgamation will lose us our identity. That's a big negative for me.	4/16/2015 3:28 PM
391	Leichhardt Council represents the people who live in the area. A mega council would not be able to take into consideration the needs and wants of such a disparate group of suburbs. Making something bigger does not make it better.	4/16/2015 3:17 PM
392	local identity, representative of local community, local community interests priority - these would be lost with an amalgamated council	4/16/2015 3:15 PM
393	Local focus	4/16/2015 3:01 PM
394	Believe residents would lose the ability to influence council decisions as much under a joint mega council. Possibly could also mean less action is taken in individual areas as budgets will probably be lower.	4/16/2015 3:01 PM
395	I feel that Leichhardt has a unique identity and that decisions for Leichhardt regarding local issues, made by a more centralised government would tend to eradicate that local identity. Isn't this the point of local government? We already have Federal and State government for more large scale issues. I think an Inner West Mega Council would be more subject to the wishes of large scale government, and as such quite vulnerable to fealty to corporate, real estate, and political interests. Local councils at their best act as a counterweight to these interests, a function which is essential to democracy as a whole, and to local interests. PJ	4/16/2015 2:58 PM

396	I believe if it stays standalone council got more chance to be more developed & modified in near future. Besides, I think the local culture in Leichhardt is very unique and beautiful. I feel that it has enough specific characters to be an attractive council for living, and even tourism purposes.	4/16/2015 2:55 PM
397	Local government at its present scale is the the only government tier where the individual has a chance of having their voice heard and potentially acted upon. Amalgamations would inevitably diminish the voice of the individual and open the larger body to the same destructive pressures from large corporate vested interests that have largely destroyed the public credibility of State and Federal governments. Big is NOT better!	4/16/2015 2:42 PM
398	For the first time in my life I have started to get involved with my local council now that I am a parent I fear an amalgamation would deter me from voicing my opinion and being involved into community	4/16/2015 2:40 PM
399	Local and independent insight into local matters and solutions personalised to our community. Quicker resolutions and a more personal, community based service.	4/16/2015 2:34 PM
400	Staying as is makes it more user friendly &more of a communitu spirit its much better for the residents	4/16/2015 2:33 PM
401	We need a "finer grain" of representation that reflects the variety and uniqueness of each suburb. Not a huge mega-Council that will only be operational if it has a generic control over this whole region rather then being able to address very site specific conditions that are representational of the true character and individual needs of each Council area. Also as can be seen from overseas examples in Scandanavian Countries and some areas of the US - greater "grass roots" input (the type of input that really works - that supports active and changing communities) is only sustainable if the areas being represented are smaller. People will become less inclined to input into a "mega- troplois" . This in turn breaks down communities. This is detrimental in number of ways as it does not embrace the true variety of demographics and built forms that the area of Sydney encompasses.	4/16/2015 2:26 PM
402	Have you ever lived in a Strata ? What chance have you to be heard in a Strata of 200 + units versus a 30+ units? I can understand the need for streamlining local councils, but amalgamation will undoubtebly be counter-productive with the local needs of individual residents being drowned in this Mega organisation. Pushing councils to work together, making use of shared resources more efficiently make sense. But from there to jump to a massive Mega-Council will be a disaster, very hard to undo once in place.. Local Councils represent the need of their consituents, a Mega Org will dilute this granularity, depersonalising and dehumanising the interaction one can have with his/her local representatives.	4/16/2015 2:26 PM
403	I am afraid of losing my voice in a large council, and that our local interests will be under-represented.	4/16/2015 2:17 PM
404	Because a smaller council has my interests at heart. I have less competition for having my opinions and concerns heard.	4/16/2015 2:16 PM
405	no trust in any state or federal govt. There track record on honesty and transparency is pitiful.	4/16/2015 2:08 PM
406	A lot of people live in this area. It has a long history of how the council has handled developments and I think some lessons have sunk in about what the area will tolerate and what could be beyond the pale. There's so much work council has to do, so much information it has to take on board, that I think a larger entity would not result in economies of scale or a larger share of income going to this area. Instead there'll be reinvention of the wheel, by which time I'll be in my grave….	4/16/2015 2:07 PM
407	Council takes long enough to action some things such as DAs, imagine how long a mega council would take!	4/16/2015 1:54 PM
408	I enjoy the distinctive character of Leichhardt, facilities such as Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre. We enjoy plenty of parks and other green space, lots of individual shops and cafés.	4/16/2015 1:38 PM
409	Community services, especially their library service, will continue with substantial funding. I feel a Mega Council will put these services at risk of reduced funding and possible closures.	4/16/2015 1:17 PM
410	Council areas develop their own unique culture based on the values of their residents. Leichhardt Council area has shown to be populated by progressive residents who have a close eye on environmental issues and the rights of gay, lesbian, transgender and intersex people. The same values cannot be said for other council areas. A merger could render such values as impotent.	4/16/2015 1:01 PM

411	We have seen these amalgamations before in Victoria where they were ultimately found that savings (the reason for amalgamation) were a myth. Amalgamations don't save money. They result in unemployment. They take away local contact with council. In a couple of words Amalgamated councils are too big!	4/16/2015 12:52 PM
412	I cannot understand what possible benefits would arise from creating a mega council. Within the areas of Marrickville, Ashfield, and Leichhardt alone there are such distinct cultural and social hubs that would be at risk of collapsing with the creation of a mega council. Leichhardt has a rich Italian culture and Ashfield is predominantly Asian. Combining these councils may have negative effects on these hubs.	4/16/2015 12:51 PM
413	I believe maintaining an independent council enables focused local representation for all communities located within the proposed Mega Council.	4/16/2015 12:34 PM
414	Attention to detail would be lost as fewer people have to look after a larger area. The issues of the community would not be as cared for as they are now. The 'community' would be lost as the mega council oversees a city. Sense of identity lost, feeling part of something where people actually care about the community would be gone.- 'big city' mentality.	4/16/2015 12:34 PM
415	I am concerned that the needs and wishes of local residents will not get a fair hearing in an amalgamated council and that the power of councils to resist overdevelopment and maintain local amenities and character will be diluted with this move to centralisation.	4/16/2015 12:33 PM
416	I have lived in the Leichhardt council area for over 25 yrs. the Council has been very responsive to local issues. A mega council will not have the capacity to be as responsive. Furthermore, as the demographics of each are different so to are the diversity of their concerns. The priorities of our community would be subsumed into an amorphous, sanitised, lowest denominator approach. A Mega Council implies less staff to address a larger and wider range of issues and needs of the community. There will be less to serve more. This equation has been proved again and again not to work in the interests of the communities who are so overtaken.	4/16/2015 12:29 PM
417	The continued ability for the Council to address area-specific issues at a grassroots level The ability for staff and councillors to stay closely connected to their local area To maintain the meeting of different needs for different local government areas	4/16/2015 12:29 PM
418	Localcouncils exist to advocate and provide services for local communities. This sense of community would be lost in a mega-council scenario. Local characteristcs of comunnity would not be considered and individuality would be lost. Local needs would not be addressed.	4/16/2015 12:21 PM
419	I think the proposed merger is in conflict with community interests. Leichhardt is doing a good job and is a responsive council. Merging would simply create another anonymous bureaucracy.	4/16/2015 12:03 PM
420	Loss of local identity Where would the offices be??? Individual councils already struggle to look after their areas - this will make the problem worse	4/16/2015 11:59 AM
421	Local jealousies of former council areas; lack of concern by other areas for our area; invisibility and anonymity of distance; ability to put things off even more; loss of intimate knowledge of our area and its community; potential for corruption on a huge scale; lack of accountability to the local community; etc etc etc.	4/16/2015 11:57 AM
422	By concentrating the decision making processes in a large council the needs and wishes of the residents would be ignored. The state government would find it easier to implement its policies. It has been demonstrated that the state government makes decisions with politics as the primary consideration rather than fact. The state government would find it easier to circumvent the proper development of infrastructure and increase many aready acute problems which exist at the moment. But primarily there would be not diversity of opinion or debate about anything, which to me is opposite to a democratic society	4/16/2015 11:56 AM
423	I relate to the people in our Council more strongly because of shared activities and neighbourhoods. I would find it just too difficult to keep track of things if we were expanded. I can't see any advantages at all really.	4/16/2015 11:56 AM
424	Leichhardt is a very diverse council area although much of it is historic. It is important to retain the heritage of this area which is very different to the suggested councils, particularly Ashfield, Burwood, Strathfield and Canada Bay. If Leichhardt had to amalgamate it would fit better with City of Sydney Council, as it more similar to Glebe and Annandale which were incorporated into Sydney City Council out of Leichhardt some years ago.	4/16/2015 11:56 AM
425	Smaller area means the council is closer to the community and likely to be aware of what actually matters to the community. This means better management of problems and issues.	4/16/2015 11:55 AM
426	Difference in demographics and requirements between the various suburbs means that existing requirements of the existing council is not going to be addressed.	4/16/2015 11:52 AM
427	LEICHARDT COUNCIL'S AREA IS LARGE ENOUGH AS IT IS AT PRESAMAL AMALGAMATION COULD LEAD TO HIRER RATES AND LESS SERVICES	4/16/2015 11:51 AM

428	It is better to have a small council based on our suburbs - Annandale, Balmain, Lilyfield and Leichhardt. The council member can then work for the people of their area and get to know the issues of the area.	4/16/2015 11:48 AM
429	An independent council will ensure that a large area like Leichhardt's interests and concerns will be addressed. Under an amalgamated council, each former council will be forced to compromise with other areas, resulting in a group of former councils with very little action taken for their specific needs.	4/16/2015 11:45 AM
430	At present Leichhardt Council is a manageable size and I am able to phone and seek advice and help whenever I have a problem. I feel that the area I live in is managed by a Council whom I identify with and whom I can vote out if I disagree with their policies. Bigger is not nessersarily better, and as I age I enjoy very much the feeling of community a local Council provides. A Council of the size proposed after amalgamation would be a smaller State Government and not only put many Council workers out of a job but move community decisions out of peoles grasp and make the processes longer and completly impersonal. I hope that the many and varied local councils are kept and allowed to flourish.	4/16/2015 11:43 AM
431	I never trust the motives of the NSW State Government, regardless of which party is in power. This proposal will indirectly hand more power to the State Government, who are regularly shown to be corrupt.	4/16/2015 11:38 AM
432	As an Italian-Australian I would be very sorry to see the Council disappear into an amorphous administration which would not and could not care about its local history and being responsive to social and ethnic groups traditionally established within its territory. A council which covers several state and federal seats would not be able to respond to local needs in a prompt and careful manner. We might as well have a Sydney Council with local outposts corresponding to the current local areas so that one can identify with the local council and the metropolitan city.	4/16/2015 11:32 AM
433	To avoid losing its identity . and to save any further inconvenience for residents from travelling from their own former local councils and long queues waiting behind counters regardless whether it would be in making any enquiries or development applications or any other relevant services with their local council and to also keep the same current 8% level on rate payers bills rather than double increasing it	4/16/2015 11:29 AM
434	Independence and focus on local issues.	4/16/2015 11:22 AM
435	More representation for local needs	4/16/2015 11:19 AM
436	I would prefer to see LMC amalagated with the City of Sydney under the leadership of Clover Moore.	4/16/2015 11:19 AM
437	Past experience proves the bigger the organization, the more bureaucratic it becomes. There are too many layers/red tape to go through and things take more time to get done.	4/16/2015 11:19 AM
438	Amalgamation is but a sop to developers and provides the local with NOTHING and the local loses much because the council is far too remote to ever give much concern or support for local issues	4/16/2015 11:16 AM
439	I don't trust those higher up the food chain.	4/16/2015 11:16 AM
440	More sense of community identity and more responsive service which would be completely lost in a mega council. I am also concerned that rates would rise and as I am on a fixed income it could prove a strain on my finances.	4/16/2015 11:12 AM
441	I don't accept that the formation of "mega" councils necessarily delivers efficiencies or better and/or more varied services. I am deeply suspicious that it may create more bureaucracy and separate councillors and council staff further from the council's stakeholders. I think that the current Leichhardt Council size is about right. It's not too small and nor does it feel as if we've lost our identity as suburbs or villages, swallowed up in a huge behemoth.	4/16/2015 11:12 AM
442	Important for Leichhardt Council (which is already large enough) to maintain status quo in order to best represent the needs of the community. The only benefit of the Mega Council is to cost save for the State Government	4/16/2015 11:07 AM
443	Leichhardt has a history that ties it strongly to the Italian community and people have flocked for decades to be a part of this experience. Be it simply for a day or for life as some have made Leichhardt and it's neighbouring suburbs their home for a specific reason. Just as the other councils have been for such nationalities (Greeks, Asians, and Arabic) Amalgamating the councils or better still, "abolishing Leichhardt" would end an era that has gone down in history for many Australia's and travelers alike. A history that only other countries of the global can claim. A history Australia is yet to know. As for the political & economical change it will have within the council itself, that's another story that's best told by someone more skilled than I in that sector.	4/16/2015 11:04 AM
444	Less staff, less local knowledge, more queues, services would be centralized so more people will miss out.	4/16/2015 11:04 AM

445	Leichhardt Council is more aware of local issues - for instance if we were a mega council there would not have been support for big issues like Callan Park and the protest of the mega building at the Tigers. These issues really affect the lives of local community directly. What about a smaller merge to be considered - along the Harbour - councils with similar issues - Canada Bay for instance.	4/16/2015 11:01 AM
446	I think you put forward a very biased case for NO change which is poor. I haven't seen anything in your information http://www.leichhardt.nsw.gov.au/Community-Issues/Council-Amalgamation-Risk/Council-Amalgamation-Risk#position that shows a balanced view. Actually I just noticed references to supporting discussions for possible reform but its hidden within one of the many pdfs. I think that your page leads people in one direction and does not set forth a set of information to make a reasonable (admittedly there is a lot of information) decision. This should be a decision by the people and the councils after you have weighed up the costs of benefits of both sides, or alternatively the other options that should be put forward. For the majority of the public take away the legal phrasing, simplify the language and put forth a case for both sides and let people choose.	4/16/2015 10:55 AM
447	It is more likely that our voices will be heard. Those that need help the most may be heard.	4/16/2015 10:54 AM
448	1. Smaller Councils are easier to manage 2. Community involvement in Council activities would diminish exponentially if the Mega Council went ahead. 3. Leichhardt, Marrickville, Burwood, City of Canada Bay, Strathfield and Ashfield Councils don't have the same needs and issues. Leichhardt and Marrickville are more working class whereas Strathfield and Canada Bay are more middle class. 4. A Mega council is designed solely for the purpose of big business. Just a look at Burwood's Building development and you know why the State Government wants to abolish the current Councils. 5. The current system of Councils has served the community well.	4/16/2015 10:53 AM
449	Local issues could be more thoroughly addressed. Local identity could be kept and expressed for all local councils	4/16/2015 10:52 AM
450	Local community issues identified and addressed Community representation stronger Local voice heard at state and commonwealth level Single voice is stronger and heard at the local level	4/16/2015 10:49 AM
451	Residents are in danger of losing local identity and advocacy of local issues and services, including the retention of sympathetic planning considerations for iconic areas such as Balmain. A mega council would be predicated on cost savings although it is often shown that such amalgamations of large bodies do not necessarily achieve that objective. Rather, there is an erosion of services and I believe we would be faced with loss of current services such as local libraries and swimming pools. I also believe it opens up the door to developers taking primacy over local populations resulting in inappropriate and unpopular planning decisions. We should resist this move at all costs.	4/16/2015 10:48 AM
452	Leichhardt has a strong identity that would be lost	4/16/2015 10:44 AM
453	We are happy with the services provided We do not want a mega council as all services will be compromised	4/16/2015 10:43 AM
454	A mega council will not represent all of its members needs. Just by looking at the suburbs Ashfield, Burwood, Canada Bay, Marrickville and Strathfield you can tell that demographics are very varied and therefore also each suburb's and resident's needs. Look at Marrickville and Strathfield and you can tell that their priorities are very differnt to those of the Leichhardt council. I think that Balmain, Rozelle, Lilyfield has a completely different feel, atmosphere and demographic and different needs. With an amalgamation I would fear that the priorities and projects on the 'to do' list would take a step back for fix more pressing matters in other suburbs. At this stage I have not seen any convincing reasons for the amalgamation.	4/16/2015 10:43 AM
455	Mega councils put an end to local input to councils	4/16/2015 10:39 AM
456	Local councillors have the time, and interest, to know what is going on in their area, to understand the mood and feelings of the electorate, and to best represent those interests. With the huge amount of corruption which appears present even in local govt, the idea of a much larger council, with more money, more interests and less personal accountability, is abhorrent. Keep it small, keep it personal, keep it real for the electorate.	4/16/2015 10:35 AM
457	Community will continue to have more say in Council matters. Mega Councils are not proven to have economic benefits and there would be less direct representation through Councillors, who would be representing far greater numbers of people. Leichhardt Council could lose its benefit of 'Open Council', where any member of the community can attend and speak if necessary. There would be more pressure from developers & other vested interests to overturn the specific rulings that protect our heritage and the specific nature of our buildings and community. These issues would remain different from those of nearby Councils and could be 'lost' with merging.	4/16/2015 10:35 AM
458	smaller numbers of staff attending to bigger numbers in their precinct never works well.	4/16/2015 10:26 AM

459	I choose to live in this area, in part, because of the progressiveness of leichhardt council. if there is a mega council then my progressive political leanings will no doubt be less represented as shires with more conservative populations are absorbed into the structure. I generally believe mega councils are a terrible idea. they didn't work in qld and won't here. people will lose that nice local identity you develop when there's a local council.	4/16/2015 10:23 AM
460	Convenience plus loss of Leichhardt identity. People take pride in the special history of leichhardt.	4/16/2015 10:17 AM
461	The inner west is a diverse area with a very diverse population and it's not a case of one size fits all. Smaller councils mean more focus on local issues that directly impact the residents and allows for more tailored policies and plans. A mega council will run the risk of being too broad and making decisions that are inappropriate for small villages like Balmain and Rozelle.	4/16/2015 10:16 AM
462	Staying local & small allows better interaction between citizens and council. There may be bigger issues in other areas & the local issues would not be a priority. Also don't see the benifit of council workers losing jobs in the amalgamation which may be seen as cost cutting but ultimatley just is of no benifit to society.	4/16/2015 10:15 AM
463	The residents of Leichhardt have fought hard over the years for "open council". It is important to know your local aldermen (be on speaking terms on the street/have them turn up to precinct meetings/have precincts/have an awareness of what issues mean rather than just economic reasons for doing-not doing things) possibly easier to control self interest and possible corruption. To know that "local" issues count in overall planning.	4/16/2015 10:13 AM
464	Councils need to be small to cater for the needs of locals.	4/16/2015 10:12 AM
465	Leichardt Council Area has very little in common with the other councils proposed to be merged into the new Inner West Mega Council, which will be far too big and therefore unable to cater for truly local needs, which is the entire point of local councils (if not, may as well abolish them entirely). I would prefer to pay higher rates and keep a truly local government than take the cheaper option and have a local council that will by its composition and structure cannot possibly be representing the intersts of my local community (which, to be clear, absolutely does NOT include anyone living in Ashfield, Burwood, Canada Bay or Marrickville, as much as I like those places).	4/16/2015 10:05 AM
466	Ashfield council is currently providing a satisfactory support to rate payers	4/16/2015 10:00 AM
467	I don't object to an amalgamation with 'like area' councils such as Marrickville, it I think the proposed merger covers too wide an area.	4/16/2015 10:00 AM
468	I hope that the negotiations could become less authoritarian, as what usually is the case in any level of Auastralian poitics - there is no feel that an outcome needs to be a best outcome FOR ALL, not just their own supporters. To counter this threat the council should stay independent.	4/16/2015 9:57 AM
469	I want Leichhardt council to be independent as I feel that local government structure better serves the needs of the local communities. A mega council would necessarily not reflect the full diversity between suburbs within the widened area. I fear that this merging could also mean, in a near future, the closure of community resources like our local libraries resulting in only one library for a mega council.	4/16/2015 9:56 AM
470	Shop local, stay local. It is only through our immediate community that we can function as a real family - local council is more important than State government. If anything has to go then it should be the state system - we must ensure our councils stay small and committed.	4/16/2015 9:56 AM
471	Partly this is about keeping communities independent. I also have concerns that smaller councils in the proposed area would have to fall in line behind richer councils such as Leichhardt. Mostly I don't see the need to "streamline" council services - government should be about providing services and jobs to the community. Merging councils will necessarily mean jobs will be cut and while this may make business sense it just creates problems in other areas of our community and goes against my beliefs on what government should and can be. i.e. it's not just about the economics! I suppose I don't see any benefit in merging besides an arguable fiscal benefit - this is not good enough for me.	4/16/2015 9:53 AM
472	If there has to be an amalgamation then I'd prefer to be part of the Sydney City Council. I think services would diminish in a large council, and residents would have less chance of slowing over-development.	4/16/2015 9:50 AM
473	HUMANITY	4/16/2015 9:50 AM
474	Leichhardt Council provides excellent services to its rate payers - including the little but very important things of 24 hr turn around if a pot hole is reported in the road! I am far from confident that a huge council area will have the same level of care and attention to the needs of its rate payers. the amalgamation area includes many unique cultures and ethnicities. The demographics are different the needs of each group are different and the priorities are different. they will be swallowed up by a massive council.	4/16/2015 9:49 AM

475	The whole purpose of local government is to act on a small, local level, reflecting and responding to the needs of its immediate community. The fine-tuned understanding of each particular community that now exists would be lost to if this amalgamation were to proceed. It is destined, by its very sprawling nature, to produce a clumsy and inefficient bureaucratic mammoth within which competing interests would cause chaos and the desires of individual residents would be ignored. The idea that bigger is better - or cheaper, even, or more efficient - has not been borne out in previous examples of these kinds of mergers elsewhere. Another example of the state government interfering, for its own interests, in the wishes of the local people and trying to destroy the independence of local government. Leave our councils alone!	4/16/2015 9:48 AM
476	Leichhardt Municipality represents a unique area in terms of population and history and the areas special needs would be lost in an amalgamation. It is already a large council areas and doesn't need to be subsumed into a large metro council.	4/16/2015 9:48 AM
477	Great local services would be merged into one mega service meaning some would most likely by shut down	4/16/2015 9:48 AM
478	Leichhardt Council looks after its residents very well. It provides many community services such as the Hannaford Centre which caters for a variety of activities for seniors. These help to maintain necessary social, educational and physical needs at an affordable cost and are located close to transport for nearby residents. Although I live in the Marrickville Council designated area, all of my social and commercial activities are conducted in the Leichardt Council area. I live close to Parramatta Road nearby to Norton Street where I do my shopping, banking, postal business etc. I would not like to see the major amalgamation of councils that is being proposed. It would destroy so much of what has been built up successfully over many years. LONG LIVE LEICHHARDT COUNCIL!	4/16/2015 9:47 AM
479	Leichhardt being independent means that the council has more targeted focus on the people that live here. Creating an Inner West Mega Council could equal the individual suburbs will all receive less attention and support.	4/16/2015 9:47 AM
480	I cannot see how it would be beneficial, I doubt there will be more services or a reduction in cost. There will be people making decisions about local matters that have no local knowledge. Politically we would cease to be Green.	4/16/2015 9:46 AM
481	The suburbs which are part of the current council have a strong and positive joint sense of identity. The council provides events which we value eg recent concert at Callan Park. Things would change if a merger occurred. We currently feel we have a say in Council matters. This would also be lost. We also are aware of who the council members are, not all of course, but we know who to contact if necessary. Council offices are close by which is a positive.	4/16/2015 9:45 AM
482	Leichhardt have more environmentally focused visions than some other councils. There could be a risk of losing this if they amalgamated. There would be less chance of small community services getting funding because of the huge amount of services allocated to the one council. We would lose the uniqueness that each council offers. The communities will suffer.	4/16/2015 9:43 AM
483	This is obviously a politically motivated push for concentrated power. A higher risk of corruption- of leverage for big business-the risk of cronyism- an area so widespread that the differing needs of communities will be overwhelmed. Such a huge area would make decision making near impossible. More opportunities for big business to push their interest to the detriment of communities. Less say for those communities because of the sheer size in numbers of constituents. A nightmare at election time-confusion as to candidates. The cost-the whole idea will take millions to achieve, Where will that come from? Existing council properties e g Town Halls municipal chambers etc- will they become the latest big sell off if no longer in use for council matters? A blatant land grab-is that what all this means? There are different needs for different communities-it's a delicate balance-with one mega council that will be swept away, leaving only basic wholesale measures able to be applied. I cannot condemn this massive upheaval enough. DO NOT GO THERE.	4/16/2015 9:37 AM
484	Protect unique local culture and heritage	4/16/2015 9:28 AM
485	Need local focus to ensure residents do not become numbers in a mega council structure.	4/16/2015 9:27 AM
486	To keep control, ensure reduced beaurocracy, stop decisions being made by people outside the area.	4/16/2015 9:27 AM
487	Before I lived in Balmain and I still use to take my bicycle up to Balmain, and it is the best library in Sydney, I want it to continue to be the best, I Believe that if it stay as it is it continue to be the Best library.	4/16/2015 9:25 AM

488	Leichhardt has a particular history and identity that means it has specific requirements regarding governance. Active involvement by citizens in matters affecting the Council area has been a feature of the process of governance and the proposed of merging councils would significantly limit this. Merging would result in a mega council less accessible to citizens and more vulnerable to 'majority' decisions that are not finely tuned to local requirements. The quality of life for local districts within Leichhardt is distinct at present. I believe this would be lost were the amalgamation to take place.	4/16/2015 9:25 AM
489	Too much bureaucracy and not enough local decisions based on local need. The reason for local councils is for a greater understanding of the grass roots. This proposed council would have too many conflicting issues.	4/16/2015 9:24 AM
490	I don't fell that a mega council would identify with the needs of local communities.	4/16/2015 9:24 AM
491	N/A	4/16/2015 9:23 AM
492	Retain local community	4/16/2015 9:22 AM
493	Want local people to have a say in what matters to their local environment. Leichhardt council do a good job and a close-knit community deserves to stay close-knit. A council of 350k people is too many - issues that are important to local people may get lost in the mix.	4/16/2015 9:19 AM
494	It is in my opinion run effectively currently. Althou it may be more efficently under the new model, i feel that the local area do get better benefit under a standalone and leichhardt area is unique in it own.	4/16/2015 9:16 AM
495	Leichhardt is a specific and special place, with its own history, community and hard-won environmental/arts focus. I would prefer this to be maintained, as it is one of the reasons I choose to live here. We've raised a family in Leichhardt Municipality (our first-born son's middle name is 'Leichhardt'), have lived in the same house/street in Rozelle for 25 years, and have amassed a myriad of connections to the local community via Balmain Public School, Saints Football Club, Callan Park Bushcare, LOST and Sydney College of the Arts (where I completed a locally inflected visual arts doctorate in 2012). I believe that the retention of a local identity is precious and essential in our globalised, often virtual world. Without distinct connection to place, human beings become rudderless, disconnected and uncaring. The treatment of our physical environment often testifies to such disregard.	4/16/2015 9:15 AM
496	1. If a bad Council is elected in they can cause extensive damage across a very large area. 2. I will not have the same access to Councillors as there will be a much larger population they have to service. Why would I support this? How would this benefit me? 3. This would fundamentally change the role of Councillors where they are supposed to represent - and know - their local community, environment and every little pothole. It really is just creating another layer of government and bureaucracy with a reduced voice for everyday people. 4. I think this model is much more vulnerable to corruption which is a continual problem in the state of NSW. 5. Apparently they did this in Queensland and it has been a disaster.	4/16/2015 9:15 AM
497	because it's obvious that the state govt wants this to help line some fat-cat's pocket and not for what's best for the local constituents....who's going to profit?.....who's going to get more control?	4/16/2015 9:12 AM
498	Definitely NOT independent.	4/16/2015 9:10 AM
499	It will result in a bigger bureaucracy. Harder to get anything done. More of a voice for the locals.	4/16/2015 9:10 AM
500	The amalgamation is another word for generalizing. A mega council assumes that all inner west areas are the same, with the same needs that can be handled with the same blanket policies.	4/16/2015 9:05 AM
501	Better local representation for ratepayers and residents. Too much bureaucracy likely in a mega council. Closer identification with the local community.	4/16/2015 9:04 AM
502	I feel there may be financial benefits to a larger council, but would rather Leichhardt amalgamate with City of Sydney rather than the councils mentioned in the email.	4/16/2015 9:02 AM
503	retain unique council identity and ability to advocate effectively for place-based solutions for the local community. Small is beautiful and gets people to care and engage in their local community.	4/16/2015 9:01 AM
504	Want to keep strong local community connection to decision making. Mega council too big and will become distant and unresponsive to local issues. Local councils are not just service delivery vehicles-they have a very important role in helping local communities thrive. Mega councils will not do this.	4/16/2015 8:50 AM
505	Each area has specific and individual needs that can be addressed by individual councils	4/16/2015 8:44 AM

506	The Leichhardt Council area has a very distinct and separate historical and social background and this would be lost if the mega merger took place. Should the mega merger happen the close local focus on important sites such as Callan Park and the Balmain precinct would be lost. The views and wishes of those who live close to these sites would be diminished and eventually lost Bigger is rarely better where the considerations of individuals are concerned. Local Councils are not corporations, the operate for the benefit of LOCAL people I strongly oppose this merger	4/16/2015 8:38 AM
507	I think that a smaller council area gives residents more say about what happens in their local area. I also think that retaining Lecihhardts independence retains its character. A mega council wouldn't understand the specific needs of residents in different areas as well.	4/16/2015 8:38 AM
508	This is an outlandish and rather disgusting idea.	4/16/2015 8:34 AM
509	Each LGA has its own unique personality and the council understands the needs of its constituents. Concern that our needs - particularly the progressive environmental nature of leichhardt council (whether green or labour) will be lost under an amalgamated council.	4/16/2015 8:31 AM
510	I like the local regulations regarding the environment and development. If there is such a huge grouping, big real estate will prevail and there is more money for big kickbacks and lobbying.	4/16/2015 8:22 AM
511	A truly 'local' council is more likely to be responsive to the area's needs and also likely to be more accessible for residents. Modelling does not support benefit of amalgamation. If it ain't broke, don't fix it. Changing the arrangement will be expensive.	4/16/2015 8:19 AM
512	It's a tight knit community, where people look after each other. Everyone is friendly and shares something in common - living in Leichhardt council. This sense of belonging would be lost in a mega council.	4/16/2015 8:18 AM
513	The identity of Leichhardt is unique. There are issues that the council are addressing that probably do not happen in the other council areas such as heritage protection and stopping over development.	4/16/2015 8:16 AM
514	I think we could merge with Marrickville and possibly Glebe but other councils have different constituents and different agendas.	4/16/2015 8:11 AM
515	Beter tailor to local needs	4/16/2015 8:05 AM
516	Leichhardt Council operates well and reacts to the needs of the local community efficiently. The basis for the Council amalgamations is from a University review of Local Government. The review identified reform of Local Government procedures as the key priority for Local Government and then observed that some Council amalgamations should take place. The State Government is pushing through amalgamations ahead of reform. The amalgamations are putting a band aid on the system. With this in mind all amalgamations should be deferred until after reform of procedures and practices have taken place.	4/16/2015 7:57 AM
517	I feel like the most effective governments are those that are close to the people they represent. Small, personal local. I fear it would be harder to have a voice in a mega council of the size that has been suggested.	4/16/2015 7:53 AM
518	Local matters and concerns can be best understood and addressed and most effectively and speedily acted on by local representatives, leaders and administrators.	4/16/2015 7:45 AM
519	More chance of receiving advice and assistance when. Calling a true local council than when calling a mega group. Services provided eg library, are excellent and k would be very disappointed to see these changed or watered down as a result of a forced amalgamation (especially as other councils do not have such great library services).	4/16/2015 7:41 AM
520	I feel as though the community would have less say if it became a mega council and therefore more big developments would happen in the area.	4/16/2015 7:38 AM
521	Local team focussed on local issues.	4/16/2015 7:36 AM
522	I am unsure but I think Leichhardt's independence would make the Council more accessible, and provide better services for Leichhardt LGA residents. My understanding is that the Mega Council would leave Leichhardt residents with fewer representatives, meaning the few Leichhardt reps on the new Mega Council would have to represent more people and have many more concerns to address, giving less time to individuals. I also understand that there will be fewer staff, and the staff there will be will not necessarily have the experience of Leichhardt LGA that the current staff have.	4/16/2015 7:32 AM
523	For exactly thereason in q7	4/16/2015 7:29 AM

524	Local areas are defined by the community, but will we have equal representation on this mega council by councillors who know the community? The community has a voice - will this voice be smothered by becoming part of a mega council? Will Leichhardt lose any services if it is smaller than the areas it amalgamates with? With so many councils in the Sydney area why doesn't the State Government introduce one size fits all regulations such as licence fees etc?	4/16/2015 7:29 AM
525	I feel Leichhardt council is running quite efficiently, with a mega-council, would issues take longer to resolve? Would there be a blanket solution for everything that doesn't take into consideration the needs of the local area? A Mega council seems like it would be like a giant sausage factory where rules and regulations are followed and each area slowly loses its flavour. Leichhardt is known for its arts and culture as the other areas are known for theirs. How can this be kept alive with a mega council?	4/16/2015 7:23 AM
526	to preserve the area's character. To maintain the people's interest in their area .to keep developers and their ugly plans in check	4/16/2015 7:22 AM
527	We the residents and rate payers will get lost in a mega council. You can see how this has occurred in Victoria. The mega council is designed to deliver more power to unelected real estate agents and developers.	4/16/2015 7:18 AM
528	Tailored local services responding to specific local issues and needs. Maintaining local identify and local community.	4/16/2015 7:14 AM
529	provides true grass root community,this leads to community led initiatives rather than top down government build a stronger sense of community,being a part of a community where being involved matters this makes for more engagement,more responsibility,power with rather than power over	4/16/2015 7:05 AM
530	I live in Canada Bay council area but don't want amalgamation. Too many people in one council area, especially with projected growth for the areas concerned.	4/16/2015 6:50 AM
531	Don't risk Leichhardt's identity and uniqueness (and of the other councils). Ensure current services are maintained. Provide job security for council staff. Keep the 'village' atmosphere and knowledge of what's important to the people of Leichhardt (and the other councils).	4/16/2015 6:50 AM
532	I am very happy with how Leichhardt Council manages my local area. They reflect the values of the constituents, and I fear this would be lost under a Mega Council.	4/16/2015 6:42 AM
533	1. It is unclear how the governance arrangements will work in a mega-council to ensure i. fair representation of suburbs. ii. the delivery of services 2. My concerns is that: i. issues that are readily impacting on one suburb are not readily apparent for a mega-council area. For example the issue of: a. the passenger terminal at White Bay has less of an impact on a mega-council area than it does on the present council area. b. placement of parks ii. there may be a drop in the quality of services e.g. library services iii. there may be a lowering if diverse ways of being a community. For example Council areas that once had an opportunity to take a lead on social, environmental and political issues may be drowned out within a mega-council area that wants to keep the status quo (i.e. less progressive and innovative). 3. I do not believe the State Government has initiated a publicity campaign or (well-known) consultation campaign to identify the reasons fro and against such a proposal.	4/16/2015 6:36 AM
534	Local issues need to be handled by local people. It is always good to see our councillors at community events, where residents can approach them and chat informally. This cannot happen if the same number of people represent many times the number of residents in the mega-council.	4/16/2015 6:27 AM
535	They are doing a great or job as is, different demographics in other councils and lower standards would mean we get less for our higher rates (I see the facilities for Canada Bay on the bay run and they are not to the same standard, toilets, playgrounds etc).	4/16/2015 6:18 AM
536	We the rate payers would lose the individuality we have at present. Some of the services would be lost such as council taking responsibility for mowing the kerb outside our homes which is council land. The footpaths would suffer. Services to the elderly would likely be lost. Endeavouring to make contact with these big councils could be a long process, and become a nightmare. I have seen this happen in health, where area health services are amalgamated and everything becomes unworkable hence it then returns back to the smaller services at great cost to us the tax payer. These are just a few of the problems we could encounter.	4/16/2015 6:09 AM
537	Maintain identity Keep the same level (if not better) service offering	4/16/2015 5:05 AM
538	More say in local affairs Maintaining identity	4/16/2015 4:12 AM
539	Because it looks after it's citizens and the area far better than a mega council could. The bigger it gets the less contact day to day with its people so the less information on their needs and wants. Leave the areas alone.	4/16/2015 2:31 AM

540	I see there maybe some benefits to LCC through amalgamation with another Council, such as Marrickville, eg sharing expensive equipment like a cherry picker, but cannot see why a mega Council would be a good idea. What benefit is the NSW govt claiming? I am overseas and unavailable to attend the orgaorganized briefings, so information would be aappreciated.	4/16/2015 1:52 AM
541	Each municipal precinct has its own specific and particular identity and character all with their own local issues and requirements. It is the local council's function to deal with this, besides just providing the normal services such as the maintenance of the infrastructure, parks and open spaces and houshold waste collection. A local Council should also be accessable to individual residents and to be able to deal with each individual's issues. In the Leichhardt Municipality I believe we sill have that to a great extend and I'm afraid all of that will be lost if we become swallowed up into a Mega Council with a far removed inaccessable corporate type of management where every thing is regulated by faceless "beancounters" I SAY NO TO AMALGAMATION!!!	4/16/2015 1:12 AM
542	Leichhardt should preserve its identity as a progressive and environmentally conscious council	4/16/2015 1:02 AM
543	Because if Leichhardt council was to stay independent then it would be better at representing 'local' democracy.	4/16/2015 12:54 AM
544	I actually live within Marrickville council. It is the best council I have ever lived in. I know little of the other councils in this proposal. I do know that friends who live in Ashfield, Burwood and Canada Bay don't have nearly as good council services or accessibility as I do here in Marrickville. If merging meant that services to all areas are as good or better than the ones I currently receive due to savings a merger might generate, I would perhaps consider such a proposal in a positive light. It is my belief though that everything will come down to the lowest common denominator. I think the demographics of these areas are diverse. This can impact and dictate to some extent, the services each area requires. The distinct difference in these suburbs might be impacted if all run by a mega council and would be a great sadness. Much work needs to be done in investigating the merits and negatives of such a move.	4/16/2015 12:38 AM
545	I believe there is less chance for corruption. I believe there is more chance of people representation in matters of importance. I believe there is a large amount of corruption in many of the above- mentioned councils and would prefer not to be involved.	4/16/2015 12:35 AM
546	Because a more localised council is conducive to spending being directed towards common local causes and issues. Combining such a large demographic will lean towards unavoidable loss of community values and create longer wait times for every day requirements to be quiried, considered and acted upon.	4/16/2015 12:00 AM
547	Less of a voice or being a voice amid a larger crowd will possibly make it harder to communicate directly to those who can make important decisions that affect me.	4/15/2015 11:43 PM
548	There has already been enough amalgamation and we would lose our identity if this proceeds. I believe that we would lose far more than we would gain.	4/15/2015 11:27 PM
549	Loss of individuality and autonomy. The amalgamation includes too many ethnic groups and clash of cultures, values, religions and language. Leichhardt has its own distinct personality with its particular needs and expectations. What the hell is the advantage of anything Mega? Each of these councils has their own particular identities and we need to keep it that way.	4/15/2015 11:14 PM
550	Leichhardt Council is currently an effective and strong council that provides good local services. Amalgamation would see these services and resources stretched and diluted as not all other councils have the same level of resources to provide ratepayers. the only reason the state government wants to amalgamate these councils is to save money. This comes at a cost to local services for residents. I am against amalgamation as I want to see a strong and resourceful council maintained in Leichhardt.	4/15/2015 11:08 PM
551	1. I am not convinced that joining councils of such magnitude offers any advantage in services, in fact I would expect it would be more difficult as different councils are financially structured at different levels. In other words, different priorities would obviously clash between councils. 2. Community interests and involvement at a local level would be swallowed up by the magnitude of the whole area. 3. Bigger does not equal better. 4. I would expect an explosion of multi rise development to match developments in other areas, for example, Strathfield which has been overdeveloped to the point of ugliness. 5. DA decisions being made by councillors not living any where near the area, not familiar with local expectations of standards of social and environmental factors. 6. Amalgamation means much less voting power by locals directly affected by development and change of use of land, this is a blatant attempt to silence local opposition to changes to the local environment . 7. It would be a disaster for Leichhardt municipal area on all levels.	4/15/2015 11:05 PM
552	In other cities where this has been tried (eg Auckland, NZ), there have been fewer cost savings than envisaged and considerable added bureaucracy for individual cities. If it's to be done, why merge them all at once? Seems excessive and overly ambitious. These are all quite different areas with different issues.	4/15/2015 11:00 PM

553	I feel an independent council is more likely to take the needs of its residents more seriously, it is more efficient in the long term and much more beneficial to local residents in terms of services provided. I feel that to date Leichhardt Council has done a very good job in the local area and that should there be a forced amalgamation with other councils much will be eroded from our area.	4/15/2015 10:51 PM
554	My local council hears what is happening locally and is able to implement change at a local level. I fear that with one big council that the little voices will get lost. How can one council address the needs of so many diverse people and hear what each individual has to say? The state government needs to leave local just that, local.	4/15/2015 10:50 PM
555	Unique area that is unlike most of the other areas.	4/15/2015 10:50 PM
556	I am actually under the Marrickville council area but participate in Leichhardt community events. The individual flavour of each area would lose it's uniqueness under an amalgamation. Residents concerns would be less likely to be heard and acted upon.	4/15/2015 10:48 PM
557	Local government has the most immediate impact to someone living in the community. I am concerned about what happens in the street I live in; the surrounding streets; the neighbourhood. Leichhardt has not much in common with say Strathfield or Canada Bay. You only have to look at the type of housing. However some back office functions can be amalgamated such as IT, HR, Payroll. These are the shared services functions.	4/15/2015 10:47 PM
558	Small is better to keep everyone in community happy and to make sure everyone has a voice. Often 'majority rules' is not a good thing.	4/15/2015 10:44 PM
559	I want a more local council. One that understands local issues. One that is approachable and represent my area.	4/15/2015 10:37 PM
560	This does not work.They tried it in Canada-disaster! Also tried in NZ and it does not work. Councils can't get their act together as it is - they have no staff and the fat cats at the top couldn't care less about the rate payers as long as they get their back handlers from developers etc. I don't know if anyone cares enough to read this BUT be assured I work in the public domain in Balmain/Rozelle and rate payers are sick to death of being conned.This is another slippery trick by the present State government to control every facet they can and squeeze some more dollars out of the long suffering rate payers. Most people who sit on councils are in it for their own selfish reasons-or could it be the tea and biscuits?The minute they have their new nameplate in place they forget that they are meant to SERVE the rate payers- not "self serve" ! This survey is probably a waste of time too.Just a way of giving us (rate payers) hope you will listen to us while all along the wheels of change are already in motion. Don't forget to give yourselves a hugh rise as well. Nearly forgot to mention that.	4/15/2015 10:35 PM
561	A 'mega council' will pay insufficient attention to the unique interests of our area.	4/15/2015 10:29 PM
562	Flexibility, customer focus. A single communtpity of interest.	4/15/2015 10:28 PM
563	I hate to think how many decisions regarding our area would be made without notifying residents. It is fairly obvious that the councils seem to struggle with the demands already. Imagine what a nightmare it will be if they are merged. If this is for cost cutting I would sweep out those employed by the council who do not deserve what they are paid and what they are wasting. Also on that note..how about stopping the upgrades of Leichhardt Pool and lower the prices so we can afford to take our children there!!!	4/15/2015 10:24 PM
564	I think a smaller, local, stand-alone council is more likely to: - Ensure more direct community involvement in local community decision-making and planning - Maintain local character and feel - Maintain a sense of local belonging - Look after the best interests of its local community members	4/15/2015 10:20 PM
565	- priorities for particular areas will get lost within a mega council - loss of council awareness of the needs of the locality as a big juggernaut would not be in touch - localities under mega council proposal too diverse to manage as one group - loss of personal touch	4/15/2015 10:16 PM
566	Large amalgamations did not work in Qld, so why would the govt think it would sork here in Sydney. Its too big an area for one council to maintain and manage. I feel the area would loose its identity.	4/15/2015 10:05 PM
567	All these areas are quite different - Annandale is a heritage protected area, and has a different culture to say Canada Bay. We wouldn't be well represented in an amalgamated council.	4/15/2015 9:57 PM
568	More democratic the way it is rather than the way proposed.	4/15/2015 9:51 PM
569	Everything in this world is getting too big and impersonal. I want local government to stay local.	4/15/2015 9:42 PM
570	Don't mind if it amalgamates, but with only one other council eg city of sydney - up to around 100,000 people maximum.	4/15/2015 9:34 PM
571	Greater representation of Leichhardt residents and their requirements.	4/15/2015 9:27 PM
572	By having separate councils, services and programs can be developed based on the needs of the local residents.	4/15/2015 9:26 PM

573	A local govt focused on truly local issues.	4/15/2015 9:22 PM
574	I think that smaller local councils are great as they support issues that are important to the locals, that a majority of people in other councils may not agree with. I've find my problems have been fixed quickly and my services are reliable. To get things done or resolved issues in mega councils will be a "line ride" for all. I found with a large council ie Brisbane - The suburbs don't have an individual feel like in Sydney and there are few events that tie a community together. It's something that you don't realise how important it is until it's gone. The one good thing that Brisbane has to offer is each household are given rubbish tip vouchers and you don't have to wait for the yearly footpath collection you just take the rubbish to the tip when you want and need to. The footpath collection makes the streets messy when people go through rubbish they don't pile it back up especially when it's wet weather, it also makes the roads unsafe as people drive slowly, stopping and starting down the narrow streets looking at the piles on the footpath and it's hard to pass them. I think small councils could solve this.	4/15/2015 9:20 PM
575	Firstly, Leichhardt Council specifically has a strong independent voice that has been key to both improving greater Sydney political discourse (via a greater diversity of views) and ensuring the Leichhardt municipality retains its unique flavour and qualities. Secondly, generally, the nature of Sydney is such that it is really a collection of villages. Key to ensuring the success of these villages is representation by bodies that are aware of the unique qualities of each 'village'. Drawing broad brush associations across a swathe of geographically distinct areas will undermine this quality. Personally, I love Burwood, Marrickville and Ashfield (I have had little interaction with Canada Bay so can't speak to it). But each is a unique village. Each deserves representative bodies that know the qualities of each 'village' and can cater accordingly. Creating a mega council will simply create bureaucratic barriers between the 'local' council (in quotations given the very notion of a mega-council undermines the local element) and its denizens. Such barriers at the state and federal level are conducive to apathy by citizens (who feel no causal relationship between their degree of engagement and governmental response) as well as a failure to deliver services (politicians and bureaucrats are removed from the existence of those they govern - thus not realising the many problems faced). At state and federal levels such problems may be excused by necessity. At the local level it seems perverse to destroy the very quality that makes local government a beneficial component of the broader system of government: its proximity to the people it governs. A mega council seems like a step in this direction.	4/15/2015 9:16 PM
576	Closer to the issues of the local area.	4/15/2015 9:13 PM
577	Local issues would be much less likely to be communicated and understood. Issues which affect residents in a particular area or particular municipality would be much more likely to be ignored.	4/15/2015 9:06 PM
578	New Funding Arrangements would probably apply and may be to the detriment of Leichhardt Council Area	4/15/2015 9:04 PM
579	Sense of community and identity	4/15/2015 9:03 PM
580	Individual townships have their own individual needs, voice and character. To amalgamate into one mega council would strip Leichhardt of everything that make it what it is, and leave us culturally destitute.	4/15/2015 9:01 PM
581	Independent in what way? I have zero identification with Leichhardt council. They pick up the bins, right?	4/15/2015 8:48 PM
582	All the areas have totally different population make up and issues are very different. It will affect those in more need and support.	4/15/2015 8:46 PM
583	Every region is unique with different requirements	4/15/2015 8:40 PM
584	Every community has individual needs that need to be reached through the provision of individual local councils	4/15/2015 8:40 PM
585	They already do a great job, so why change it.	4/15/2015 8:26 PM
586	Local knowledge and appreciation of local needs. Appreciate cost savings will appear attractive but believe it would result in less efficiencies longer term and probably would be broken up again in the future recognizing need for local community engagement.	4/15/2015 7:47 PM
587	If it ain't broke don't fix it.	4/15/2015 7:46 PM
588	Leichhardt Council represents the people within its boundaries and is small enough to keep in touch with its people. A mega council makes no sense whatsoever.	4/15/2015 7:35 PM

589	I think Leichhardt Municipality has its own unique character which is distinct from those with which it is proposed to amalgamate with. I also think the proposal for amalgamation with Ashfield, Strathfield, Canada Bay is not in keeping with the demographic of these areas and are too far away from Leichhardt. Leichhardt, Newtown, Marrickville maybe, maybe because they have closer proximity and are closely interwoven with transport links like the light rail. I think their demographics are more closely aligned too. It seems an inevitability that Council amalgamations take place, but it would be great to see some consistency with municipalities being geographically close. Such a sweeping proposal, would make for difficult bedfellows I think and surely a loss to all ratepayers. Their voices would be lost,. The interests of Strathfield, Burwood, and Canada Bay seem inconsistent with Leichhardt municipality and the thought that its individuality would be threatened by the sort of planning decisions taken by Burwood Council is of great concern. .	4/15/2015 7:14 PM
590	I don't see much of a reason to change	4/15/2015 7:05 PM
591	I think Leichhardt Council do a great job and are on top of issues relevant to those in the area. I am concerned that if our suburb is caught up in a mega council there will be less focus on community issues and that the residents will not be heard. How to we know that our rates will be appropriately allocated to maintaining our suburbs and not used to prop up other suburbs in the mega councils. I am also concerned about job losses as a result of the merger.	4/15/2015 7:05 PM
592	Small is good. We have an Open Council where every opportunity for residents to put foreword their views is encouraged. There is community consultation on all plans for the future. We all have the chance to participate in decision making. The Council is operating well. The budget is balanced. Their is no logical reason for amalgamation.	4/15/2015 6:56 PM
593	I think some level of amalgamation is ok, but not to the degree of what is proposed. I think a merger with Ashfield and Marrickville would make more sense.	4/15/2015 6:22 PM
594	I believe in democracy. If it is to work ordinary people must feel they can have input about their concerns at a level where they can be heard. The best level for this is the Council level. But if Councils are to be MUCH larger that ability of citizens will cease to operate meaningfully. Democracy will suffer	4/15/2015 6:16 PM
595	I have seen what happened on the Northern Beaches (where I grew up) when there was a Mega council in the 1970s covering everywhere from Manly to Palm Beach...chaos and corruption resulted. This is why Warringah split from Manly council, and later the Pittwater community lobbied to form the excellent from day one and still excellent Pittwater Council. Mega councils are a product of Thatcheresque ideology...the idea that bigger is better (and easier for developers and their state buddies to control). The Greater London Council being one of many examples. I believe in local solutions to local problems wherever possible. And I lived in Glebe when Frank Sartor wrenched that suburb away from Leichhardt to become part of the City of Sydney council. God bless Clover Moore and her successor who are good to deal with, because when Sartor was in charge of SCC, dealing with them was a nightmare for Glebe residents...an example of what happens when locals lose control of the "little" things that are BIG factors in our daily lives eg residents having a REAL say on local development and the style of our neighbourhoods, urban design, garbage removal, etc etc	4/15/2015 6:08 PM
596	Bigger is not necessarily better. I think we would lose the personal access to our Councillors and the ability to have a direct say in what happens in our area. Many of the council's specialist committees, such as the Heritage Committee, would no longer have influence on decisions made in this area, or would become so unwieldy as to be useless. The proposed amalgamation covers a widely disparate demographic whose needs are also very different. A mega council would have difficulty coping with prioritising requirements. As well, Leichhardt LGA covers one of the most densely populated areas of Sydney, and much of it lies in a conservation area. As such, it has its own unique problems and needs and deserves to maintain a local, caring council which can address these needs in a meaningful way. Heritage issues in such an old area are of prime consideration in planning and development and are quite different to those in other areas represented by the proposed mega council. All these issues are best dealt with on a truly local level. And from what I have ascertained, there is not even great financial advantage in pursuing these amalgamations. I think our population would lose a lot for little gain. Many of the council committees, such as the Heritage Committee, would no longer exist in a meaningful way and would not be able to influence decisions which affect the history and heritage of Leichhardt LGA which is one of the oldest and most important in Sydney. The amalgamation would cover a hugely diverse demographic with different interests and aspirations in one of the most densely pop	4/15/2015 4:59 PM
597	Local councils are about local community. If they represent too large an area they lose this capacity and become more like a government agency. Must remain local to be effective council representing residents in planning, development and services.	4/15/2015 4:27 PM
598	I would like to keep my council based job and amalgamation would mean I might lose it.	4/15/2015 2:09 PM

599	I feel at the moment the council is part of the community, their representatives are involved and interested in what is happening or needs to happen within our community. They listen and support keeping our area low-rise, maintained and supportive of the growing family orientation of the areas. If it merged, resources would be diluted, focus would be spread and the understanding of local needs and interests would be lost in time.	4/15/2015 2:01 PM
600	If Leichhardt were to be amalgamated into another council, I would prefer the City of Sydney Council. The way they have reinvented themselves, their green spaces, their free events and their access to information wins hands down in my opinion and I would rather be with a council that actually practices what it preaches.	4/15/2015 9:44 AM
601	Having lived in both Drummoyne (Canada Bay) and Balmain (Leichhardt) they have completely different "personalities"and the residents have different needs and motivations. This is the same across each of the areas that are in the proposed mega amalgamation. Issues of specific areas would get lost is such a large area and in the end nothing would get done to improve the lives of those that live in these areas. Whilst I might support some amalgamation, the huge scope and size of the proposed amalgamation is, in my opinion, of not material benefit to the residents in each of those areas. I still own properties in both of these areas and do not support this amalgamation either from the standpoint of an owner in Leichhardt or an owner in in Canada Bay.	4/15/2015 9:17 AM
602	Local government needs to service local needs. Services can be shared in a sensible way without loss of identity.	4/15/2015 8:13 AM
603	The scale will be too large, and local identity will be lost.	4/14/2015 10:13 PM
604	Leichhardt Council functions reasonably well as it is and seems to be aware of the needs of its residents. Merging with four other councils with differing needs and interests is not a good idea. We are going to have a fight on our hands with the proposed development of the so-called Bays Precinct - we do not need to have our power diluted by being defanged in an amalgamation. Last weekend's "open day" at White Bay/ Blackwattle Bay was very interesting - must have cost a fortune, Murrays minibuses, free ferries to Circular Quay, free hardhats, lots of staff etc - to what end? To lull us into a false sense of security that we are going to be consulted - just like Barangaroo - remember that - what a joke! I certainly can't see Canada Bay or Marrickville or Burwood or Ashfield etc supporting us in a bid to have a say in the Bays devt - it's not in their interest.	4/14/2015 9:40 PM
605	Rates increase Different culture between boundaries Unknown council initiatives Cleaner streets policy Parking issues	4/14/2015 9:11 PM
606	Small is better. It is doing well as is. Very in touch with the community.	4/14/2015 8:58 PM
607	It is a sufficiently large Council to manage ratepayers' affairs very well. Within an amalgamated mega-Council ratepayers' affairs would be diluted and not be looked after so well.	4/14/2015 6:23 PM
608	Local Government, by definition, must stay local to be an effective voice for the community. A mega council will become like the State Government where planning is controlled within government departments and accessible primarily to developers. Ideally, Glebe should return to Leichhardt Council in order to make it more financially viable while maintaining a strong, local, voice for a similar community. Amalgamation is not the only solution to the difficult economic issues faced by smaller councils. Sharing resources and expertise can occur without an enormous shift such as the mega council proposed.	4/14/2015 5:25 PM
609	Clearer lines of communication	4/14/2015 5:14 PM
610	Under the current system residents have a say in how policies for our area are developed and through local Precinct committees we feel connected to our Councillors who nearly always show up to meetings - Our issues are LOCAL and our Council is aware of what our concerns are - it may me something as small and seemingly trivial as a pothole in our street or it may be something as huge and menacing as the toxic pollution caused by cruise ships near our homes in East Balmain - in both these instances our Council responds swiftly and proactively; something that would be lost is we were part of an amalgamated inner West Mega Council!	4/14/2015 4:59 PM
611	To keep the services currently provided and enhance service and events to be even better for all of the residents. Note I understand about the amalgamations (as I currently work for a Council) but think that the suggested mega council is to big. If Leichhardt had to amalgamate I would prefer just a few councils e.g. Ashfield and Marrickville	4/14/2015 4:33 PM
612	Leichhardt Council has enough to do - more council groupings in one bundle will only limit access and connection between Council and its constituents/residents. Big does not equal GOOD! Had I ever been unsure of that - I can say now that I have lived long enough to see that BIG is just clumsy. It is not even economically appropriate or beneficial to anyone. Do not allow amalgamation of councils to occur. The only time amalgamation would nbe appropriate would be in lieu of having Staate Governments and having just two tiers of government. Two tiered government nationally would be sensible but it will not happen in my life time so for the moment - NO AMALGAMATION.	4/14/2015 1:39 PM

613	I feel that such an amalgamation would result in too great a range of socio-economic and cultural elements and would result in not being able to represent and meet the needs, views, values etc. of such a large population. In addition, I believe such an amalgamation would result in Leichhardt Council losing its identity which is currently very strong and manifests as a cohesive community.	4/14/2015 1:03 PM
614	I would probably like Balmain to still be independent with local decision-making, but using shared services to manage costs. For example, decisions made by Leichhardt have resulted in Birchgrove residents paying some of the highest rates in Sydney, to subsidise the low minimums elsewhere in the municipality. And the Mayor's attitude was that we are the minority, and that there were more votes with the folk who were being subsidised! There's no reason to suspect that this would improve under an even more remote management environment. The sole argument put forward by the State Government seems to centre on financial; the efficiency of the larger councils, and the financial incompetence of most of the existing councils. They have yet to provide compelling evidence of the financial efficiency improvements that could only be achieved through amalgamation. In spite of some financial issues, LMC doesn't appear to be badly run, but could improve with some further benchmarking.	4/14/2015 1:03 PM
615	Leichhardt already includes a number of distinct precincts (with their own architectural styles and locality structures) and communities (eg Leichhardt's Italian heritage, Balmain's history of working class activism, drinking hotels, artist in various media, etc.) A council needs to understand and respect these differences, and a mega council where a councillor may not even live in the suburb s/he represents is bound to lose this connection. Leichhardt Council tries very hard to be responsive to community feelings. A megacouncil is likely to encourage uniformity by imposing less sensitive standards on development applications, and less likely to be a leader on environmentally sustainable policies on matters like public transport versus car travel, and use and promotion of solar energy.	4/14/2015 1:00 PM
616	I feel that Leichhardt Council is responsive to residents' needs. I have also lived in Canada Bay council's area and the contrast is marked - I felt that council had no interest in even the smallest of residents' concerns. Leichhardt needs to remain independent so its culture is maintained.	4/14/2015 12:54 PM
617	An amalgamated council would cover too big an area. The concerns and specific needs of local areas would be lost.	4/14/2015 12:41 PM
618	I believe from a organisation and individual standpoint the mega council would be very difficult to approach and work with. Competing priorities of the mega council would mean local residents and community organisations would be lost in the larger system. The louder voices would have priority and access to support at the cost of grass roots engagement.	4/14/2015 12:22 PM
619	I feel that any problems within the Leichhardt area would become insignificant.	4/14/2015 11:59 AM
620	I don't see how a council that large could possibly attend fairly to the individual needs of communities. As we have already seen at the state election, what Strathfield wants (WestConnex) is completely different to what Newtown wants (light rail) and trying to make decisions within such a large council that covers such a widely diverse area is going to cause disunity and no-one is going to end up happy.	4/14/2015 10:22 AM
621	Each of these councils has a unique identity that we would lose. While I understand the rationale for the mega council, I am strongly opposed to it.	4/14/2015 10:12 AM
622	Smaller councils focus more on the local issues and residents	4/14/2015 7:40 AM
623	Mega Council impersonal and not capable of a refined care of the community Leichhardt council reflects and responds to community needs most adequately Council should by definition be local	4/14/2015 12:23 AM
624	I do not want council to be larger. If anything should be added, return the area transferred to Sydney City Council. Representation is good. I do not want the interests of ratepayers and land management in Leichhardt submerged under other considerations. neitherdo I want decision-making to be stil more remote from residents. To amalgamate would favour development career bureaucrats, whether CEO's of developers, or public servants, who have no personal stake in the subject, other than to potentially increase salary if development proceeds.	4/13/2015 10:44 PM
625	I am a great supporter of local communities and have been active in the local council precinct for more than seven years, Leichhardt Council financially and logistically supports local precincts unlike a number of other councils. Leichhardt Council LGA is unique to other councils in the proposed amalgamation. This LGA has a different agenda on issues such as development, open space, sustainability and community.	4/13/2015 10:42 PM
626	Local issues will be subsumed. It will be an excuse to sack staff.	4/13/2015 9:58 PM
627	radical thinking but it will just become a big overbearing bureaucracy a bit like city sydney,? maybe worse ?with local staff and council retention lose along the way ,on a local area basis this is not an advantage.	4/13/2015 9:48 PM

628	Leichhardt is an extremely open, accessible council with a long reforming tradition encouraging openness and democratic input from the community. If it were to be swallowed up by a mega entity it would lose much of this culture and resident input and involvement in council decisions would be much reduced. The community sense of belonging to an area would also be diminished by absorption into a mega council. There is no financial crisis pertaining to current council funding capacities to warrant a change to a mega structure. In fact, sharing resources between councils while retaining independent council entities, is the way to go where clear needs and benefits arise. It will make corruption easier as the sheer volume of activities in a large mega council will be much harder to examine with the community interest in mind.	4/13/2015 9:45 PM
629	It is far better to have a LOCAL council to truly represent the local community of Balmain/ Rozelle/ Leichardt	4/13/2015 9:10 PM
630	I like the accessibility of local councillors which may be lost in a larger structure. I don't feel part of the proposed group of areas....I feel I belong more to a Glebe and Balmain like demographic.	4/13/2015 9:06 PM
631	local aspects of provision of services required in the community	4/13/2015 8:05 PM
632	Local issues would be lost in the priorities of a mega council. Leichhardt municipality is an historic area with special needs for planning and development to maintain the character of the area. Large is not better for careful considered decision making nor for the delivery of services suited to the local communities.	4/13/2015 7:51 PM
633	better representation of rate payers	4/13/2015 7:30 PM
634	I would not mind Leichhardt Council being merged with Marrickville Council as that Council seems to have, and be able to provide, much better, more useful and more professional services to ratepayers than Leichhardt Council - all at about the same rate rates. I would feel sorry for the current Marrickville ratepayers if they ended up with Leichhardt Council style services. I do acknowledge that Leichhardt Council does seem have have it budget and financial management finally sorted out and funds appears to be better spent. I am not all that interested in the local politics/political representation side of local government. Just look around at the Councils with incompetent, corrupt and self-interested councillors, councillors using local government to go into state politics, or councillors wanting to use rate payers monies for all sorts of non-local government issues and causes. Fortunately we only see these people around election time. I am interested in good services and amenities governed by good policies to people living in the Leichhardt Council area. I am concerned about public transport and over development, but I see local government being rather powerless to do much about either.	4/13/2015 7:15 PM
635	Leichhardt will not lose its identity.	4/13/2015 6:41 PM
636	I would actually support Leichhardt Council being merged with Sydney.	4/13/2015 6:13 PM
637	Each of the local government areas in the proposed amalgamation have quite distinct characters and populations and provide differing services for these residents. The new proposed mega council is too big to effective meet the needs of the residents, you may as well scrap councils altogether if we are going to end up with only a few mega councils servicing the needs of 340k+ residents. Leichhardt Council offers many targeted local services specific to its residents, which I find it hard to believe could continue in a mega council that must look after so many residents over such a wide geographic area	4/13/2015 6:06 PM
638	Local representation is important to develop our sense of community and connection - something that is so important in our modern world. While an amalgamation may save on administration costs, it would be be at the expense of our sense of unique community. Leichhardt council already encompasses a large area and multiple suburbs and is doing a fantastic job.	4/13/2015 5:44 PM
639	It would be accessible for everyone. You would not have to go kilometres to do council business.	4/13/2015 5:44 PM
640	I think the size of the Leichhardt Council area is large enough already. I have lived in Annandale for almost 30 years and I feel that the services provided by the council are good and progressive, far more so than neighbouring councils. If Leichhardt is merged with other neighbouring councils then the political allegiance of the voters would be diluted and we would end up with a less progressive and less reflective amalgamation of views.	4/13/2015 5:43 PM
641	As a resident of almost 20 years, we live in an area that has historic buildings,properties & parklands. It is well known that when "companies" expand & become bigger, there is a greater potential to lose the "quality of care & service". There is less time & attention to address the important,individual needs of the community, thereby lowering standards. Also, one regulation for one current council, is not always appropriate for a neighboring council. There is a great risk of amalgamating the regulations,which in turn would risk the delicate foreshore parklands, a risk of overdevelopment , and the current local voices within the community would become a whisper in an almalgamated community. Local councils in the inner west have their own uniqueness that allows the needs of the community to be properly addressed. I am strongly opposed to the amalgamation of the councils.	4/13/2015 5:41 PM
642	It is working I wouldnt like different people in our council.We all know what we think.	4/13/2015 5:28 PM

643	The main reasons that I want Leichhardt Council to stay independent are: 1) The heritage issues in Leichhardt are very different to those in the other councils in the proposed amalgamation and I fear for the future of Leichhardt's heritage culture in an amalgamated council 2) The influence of residents' views on council polices must be diminished in an amalgamated council. One of the great advantages of living in Leichhardt Municipality is that groups and individuals are able to express there ideas and be listened to and their proposals are acted upon. 3) There can be cooperation between Councils without the need for amalgamating them. Such cooperation already exists to some degree between Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils for instance. 4) I cannot see any convincing evidence that a larger council will provide any advantages other than the possibility that the total expenditure and hence rates and support from the State Government MAY (!) be reduced. 5) The State Government's proposal for the amalgamation of inner west councils seems very arbitrary. Why not have smaller of larger amalgamations? Why is the amalgamation of Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils not being considered as an option for instance? The answer to this appears to be unstated political expediency.	4/13/2015 5:03 PM
644	Keep the "Local" in Local Government	4/13/2015 4:52 PM
645	Loss of local community representation 'sacrificing for greater good' Eg Implementing restrictive policies that would generally apply only to few suburbs so everyone else would be generally worse off. I don't support blanket approach to managing local issues, each local area have their own issues that require different solution.	4/13/2015 4:28 PM
646	Better representation the opportunity for residents to contribute to decision making loss of community alienation from decision making process increasing politicisation of councils rather than working for the community	4/13/2015 4:23 PM
647	Current system works. Merged council far too big. Have been told nothing about possible implications by current council though nor the benefits of the merger by the state govt.	4/13/2015 4:21 PM
648	Would be very unsure as to efficiency of an expanded council, access to points of contact, speed of bureaucratic process, etc when dealing with local issues.	4/13/2015 4:14 PM
649	Looks like a waste of time and money, plus, I believe some suburbs would suffer a while others flourished. How do you control the cost of housing in an area that huge, is it all judged the same?	4/13/2015 4:02 PM
650	It is difficult enough for a resident to reach council officials to make representations of a meaningful kind. How much more difficult this is likely to be if Leichhardt were merged into a Mega Council one can only guess. The impersonality of a larger body would seem to be regrettable on a number of counts. In a city the size of Sydney, the importance of local identity cannot be over-emphasized. This is not just a matter of efficiency and economy, but of a sense of belonging which a visible and accessible local council can give to residents. Each council area as presently defined has a particular character: it would be difficult for a large, merged body to respond to the particular needs of each.	4/13/2015 3:52 PM
651	Leichhardt Council has a strong heritage of ensuring sustainable growth in the local council area and ensuring adequate facilities for the growing profile of young families throughout the region, through better parks, playgrounds, childcare and sporting facilities. I believe that amalgamation would lessen the effectiveness of any council as it will be responding to such a diverse range residents, both culturally and in their life stage, as well as lose the strong environmental and sustainable growth agenda of Leichhardt council in it's council area.	4/13/2015 3:52 PM
652	Let us not lose the precious characteristic of “Neighbourhood". Leichhardt (and the other suburbs mentioned all have their distinctive identifying character, which emerges from their interesting history. Let us not lose this. That Italian background is important. The features that brought my German great-grand mother to live in James Street at the end of the 19c are particular and important to me - the railway, the tram, the hugging of old Parramatta Road at the edge of the city - and how rich have the Italians made it. Keep it! Do not make meaningless the architectural treasures and features that have grown out of the history of Leichhardt. We have long belonged to the ever-growing megapolis of Sydney - and maintained our distinctiveness - called variety in an ecological sense! We would be swamped in the tsunami of mega and ever more mega- polices. Let us stop that right here.	4/13/2015 3:38 PM
653	Local council should be for local issues. Individuals will have less ability to influence what happens in our local community, where we all live, if we have one big mega council. Additionally a bigger council means more bureaucracy, less accountability and I worry about more opportunity for corruption. Please keep local councils as they are	4/13/2015 3:17 PM
654	One big council would have to fit all suburbs and Leichhardt is a very different suburb to Ashfield, Strathfield, and Burwood.	4/13/2015 3:17 PM
655	Local government for local communities.	4/13/2015 3:16 PM
656	there is no reason why it has to change. i feel the community will benefit from Leichhardt council staying independent and focusing on local community needs.	4/13/2015 3:05 PM
657	The combined council would be very difficult to deal with as it would be a huge bureaucracy.	4/13/2015 2:59 PM

658	would get lost in the crowd, loose identity and local focus would disappear.	4/13/2015 2:55 PM
659	Addressing the needs of the local community.	4/13/2015 2:49 PM
660	Local knowledge and solutions	4/13/2015 2:24 PM
661	Don't want Leichhardt to lose identity. Don't believe it would benefit the Leichhardt council area at all. NZ example is proof of this.	4/13/2015 2:20 PM
662	To ensure local needs are attended to properly	4/13/2015 2:20 PM
663	Better service to the local areas More say for the resident Better services management for the smaller population More accountability by the council toward the constituents	4/13/2015 2:17 PM
664	I wouldn't feel represented by a council area so large.	4/13/2015 2:15 PM
665	I understand (and support) the efficiencies and synergies of having an amalgamated council - reduce overhead expenses, run more efficient process (particularly building development approval) and consistency of judgement. It may give us more weight when protesting against the WestConnex, combined forces and that sort of thing. However, I worry that a mega council takes away the ability for most people to influence things that are happening in their local area. Why would the councillors listen to 1 individual out of 341,999? It creates an environment where only the people with the loudest voices and deepest pockets can be heard. I am on the fence with this one, I would really like to have more information about how it will work - the benefits and disadvantages - and how it will impact me.	4/13/2015 2:11 PM
666	Loss of identity The quality of services and infrastructure would reduce under amalgamation.	4/13/2015 2:04 PM
667	It would be terrific if LMC remains independent focussing on local issues. Leichhardt Council has many wonderful initiatives and certainly a will to serve the community for which I personally thank you. Sadly constructive feedback is construed and openly labelled complaints. However there is a growing sense by many that our voices are either dismissed or not even heard. It's a fight for local community committees to have their say as often suggestions and ideas are decided by a few administrative staff who in many instances has little understanding or onsite knowledge of the facts. In the past few years Council has commissioned consultancies at considerable ratepayer expense to prepare numerous plans and reports eg the Traffic Report at Callan Park which - was not circulated to stakeholders - Council's brief to consultants was not included - Master plan recommendations by community were ignored ie speed 10kms throughout Park - research statistics were seriously and obviously flawed - on page 1 the highest conflict danger area incl. vehicles was identified as the Bay Run in Callan Park yet amazingly final recommendations included a yield of 52 parking spaces on the Bay Run - the recommendations focussed on pushing all vehicles parking almost adjacent to the sports fields despite Australian and world best practice that vehicles be parked on the perimeter of parks The Skateboard park was to be a family friendly facility requested in the Master Plan yet it has become an event facility. - Ratepayers have not been given transparent TOTAL costs as GST, lighting, paths, demolition, landscape and designers fees and construction have NOT been added. - there is no demonstrated comprehension that other facilities nearby will be occupied and night time noise could be difficult to control. Skateboarders will have basically dawn to dusk access yet will pay nothing to use the skateboard. - I think the skateboard park will be terrific but why must Council build the biggest and the best and fail to be reasonable about a finite dollar for other park facilities and needs. A Marketing plan to reinvigorate Leichhardt and Balmain - identified parking as the biggest single issue yet no parking solutions were recommended ? - did not talk of any heritage attractions to develop, did not include Callan Park anywhere in the plans. The Leichhardt Long Lunch in the Town Hall and carpark is a great idea but why hold it on a Saturday when Norton St is almost at traffic standstill., parking is at a premium ? - Sunday would have been a much better day - to reinvigorate Norton St why not use the same concept as Rozelle Village Fair post the fire when stall were erected along the street outside the various businesses ? At Leichhardt 2025+ thinktank, 'have your say' re rate rises it seems Council staff outnumber ratepayers who often feel Council is simply 'going through the motions'. And now open discussion and decisions on DA's has been shifted from open gallery discussion with decisions made by paid consultants who may have their own subjective ideas whereas at least community has a strong idea of each Councillor's opinions.	4/13/2015 1:59 PM
668	Each council is an individual area with unique desires, requirements and a different voice.	4/13/2015 1:52 PM
669	I feel the council to date has operated very well . Other council areas may benefit at Leichhardt council expense.	4/13/2015 1:48 PM
670	Endemic corruption in the councils further west	4/13/2015 1:48 PM
671	The areas such as Leichhardt, Balmain and Birchgrove, to name three, have their own particular identities and I think it is important to maintain these. Under a bigger council, everything can become blended into a mono-cultural landscape which would be a shame.	4/13/2015 1:45 PM
672	We like being close to our Councillors and Council staff	4/13/2015 1:44 PM

673	There would be HEAPS of Jobs loses of Leichhardt Council Employees!	4/13/2015 1:42 PM
674	Council would be more aware of local issues and more likely to listen.	4/13/2015 1:29 PM
675	Leichhardt would lose it's 1. identity and 2. cultural aspects that are so well displayed now. We wouldn't be able to define what's important to us in the immediate area we 3. live in, 4. play, 4. work and 5. shop in. I don't see it would provide any value cost savings. Perhaps we would pay less (even that might not work out) but we would definitely get less. I say NO!	4/13/2015 1:28 PM
676	Preference towards a council area where the local community has a say and contact with councillors in respect to direct issues surrounding Balmain, Rozelle etc.	4/13/2015 1:23 PM
677	I think local focus is very important to make sure resources are put where they are needed. The bigger the council the more diluted the voice of individuals. I would rather see state governments abolished schools, hospitals and infrastructure be managed at a federal level with local issues dealt with at council.	4/13/2015 1:20 PM
678	Local and smaller = better access to council workers and better chance of having a voice	4/13/2015 1:16 PM
679	Councils are there to protect the interests of their related rate payers. If it were a mega council, there would be too many conflicting interests to ensure the best outcome for local residents. Each area of Sydney has different challenges and priorities which need to be handled on a area by area basis.	4/13/2015 1:14 PM
680	Local Government is about being local and knowing the local community - we would lose this with such huge amalgamations	4/13/2015 1:12 PM
681	See answers above	4/13/2015 1:05 PM
682	Our counril area has its own specific demography, geography, economy, history, culture, etc. If we merged with other councils, each of which has its own local needs and characteristics, I don't see how each council can meet the needs of each area. I fear the services and policies are going to be 'one size fits all', and this will end up not fitting anyone.	4/13/2015 1:04 PM
683	Local means LOCAL. Local services. Local accessability.	4/13/2015 1:04 PM
684	Local representation is important. I do not agree that the whole inner west has uniform opinions of how our area is governed.	4/13/2015 1:03 PM
685	Big organisations in general are sometimes more efficient, but almost always harder to deal with.	4/13/2015 1:01 PM
686	Local voices and community need to be represented by local councils or groups that are deeply tied to the long term and inter generational aspirations of local people's. That alongside strong Indigenous representation and commitment to a just society has placed Leichhardt council in an important and much needed role as we move forward as a community.	4/13/2015 12:58 PM
687	Dare I say, we already have enough issues with Leichhardt Council being the size it is right now. We are a specific area, including Balmain being a peninsula and we are not the same as Burwood, Concord or Homebush. I would highly recommend we work on being a better stand alone council, not a bigger more clumsy amalgamated one. [redacted]	4/13/2015 12:57 PM
688	It's hard enough for citizens to have a say in how the local area is run, and this would just make it harder. Similarly, councillors rarely agree on matters so adding even more people to the mix would mean that solving issues would take even longer.	4/13/2015 12:54 PM
689	Leichhardt council area is distinctive and progressive and reflects predominant views of its population. It is not at all like Burwood and Ashfield and environs taken in by maga notions. The Inner West community spirit is precious and needs to be regarded as such.	4/13/2015 12:53 PM
690	There is nothing wrong with the existing system. We enjoy the benefits of a locally controlled council and would prefer to keep it this way.	4/13/2015 12:52 PM
691	It will be easier to deal with.	4/13/2015 10:55 AM
692	The 6 areas that would form the mega council have different identities that would be lost if a mega council was in charge of local planning	4/13/2015 8:10 AM
693	Maintain local identity	4/13/2015 8:07 AM
694	Better understand local needs.	4/12/2015 5:23 PM
695	Leichhardt has a certain character and community that should stay Leichhardt I fear that a merged council would lead to parochialism and butting heads with nothing accomplished	4/12/2015 3:42 PM

696	We love our suburb and the community feel and events. This would be lost and the management would feel more administrative than the current great community the the council fosters.	4/11/2015 8:06 PM
697	Good Council size-has done some good things and continues to represent the local area for the local good	4/9/2015 11:53 PM
698	increasing the geographical area to be administered is likely to distil a response to unique local issues and the opportunity for local voices	4/8/2015 1:41 PM
699	I am in the leichhardt catchment. This area is obviously the best funded with a higher socioeconomic pool. I am sure our area would be less advantaged and have to pay for the poorer areas. This is clearly not fair.	4/7/2015 6:56 PM
700	I wouldn't mind if Canada Bay was included as it is only small and it does make sense to have some economies by joining smaller councils in with larger ones. However the proposal is just for too big a council. Bigger is not always better. I moved into the area three years ago and have found Leichhardt council to be efficient, helpful, proactive and a pleasure to deal with. I fear all of this would go in a mega council. If something is working well, why change it?	4/7/2015 3:48 PM
701	Small Council is better to run and more likely to have a say.	4/7/2015 10:23 AM
702	Greater sense of community with locals. All of the areas for amalgamation are vastly different culturally and demographically. Also, I would assume by amalgamating that there would be job losses which would have a negative impact on people who have services our communities.	4/5/2015 12:53 PM
703	Leichhardt Council already covers the diverse and different communities of Leichhardt, Rozelle, Liliyfield, Balmain and Birchgrove. This is a huge area, with enough demographic and socio-economic and geographical variety for one local administration, and it does it very well. We have a broad yet cohesive historical sense of ourselves. To lose this for a set of state government, economic rationalist whims would be irrational. Don't give in to this madness.	4/5/2015 1:55 AM
704	The Council will become too large to allow individual ratepayers to have a say in local issues. This is a fundamental benefit of having local government determine local issues. I object strongly to state governments determining what local government should do.	4/4/2015 6:21 PM
705	Better representation Better local planning Local details	4/4/2015 5:29 PM
706	Greater understanding of local issues Greater focus on local issues Accountability to the local electorate Flexibility	4/4/2015 10:10 AM
707	Never had aproblem with Council. A huge Coucil is not local-notwithstanding the Greens Leichhardt is OK.	4/3/2015 9:43 PM
708	Genuine representation / understanding of issues is only possible in a smaller area. As Leichhardt is financially viable, there is no reason to support amalgamation. Residents expect that a local Council will actively protect their amenity - that is not likely in a mega Council.	4/3/2015 6:31 PM
709	I feel that Leichhardt will lose its voice and identity if it transforms into a megacouncil. Leichhardt has a unique cultural identity which is significantly different to Ashfield, Canada Bay, Marrickville, Burwood and Balmain. The work that the council does on behalf of the residents and local businesses in terms of ensuring that our needs are represented as individuals within a community is unsurpassed. I fear that as a mega council the needs of the community will be less well represented and that rates will rise but that service delivery will decrease. Needless to say I do not support the creation of a mega council and strongly hope that Leichhardt will remain a standalone council.	4/3/2015 6:12 PM
710	1) Council has an understanding of the needs of their area. A mega council will mean this understanding will be lessened. 2) Mega does not mean more efficient! It usually just mean less employees and those who retain their jobs are over worked and stressed	4/2/2015 6:14 PM
711	The councillors have close contact with the residents. Very personalised service from the departments of council. Excellent garbage collection service. Excellent green waste service Excellent recycling service. Exemplary community consultation. Leichhardt Library is the best in the state.	4/2/2015 3:12 PM
712	Independent Council gives the community an interest and a voice in local affs, and a say in how and on what our rates are spent. We need the ability to participate in our own affairs, not of those of a large amorphous group.	4/1/2015 4:09 PM
713	There does not seem to be any advantage in amalgamation. Leichhardt council is managed well, it is an open council where everyone has a say. Leichhardt has a unique historical heritage that is completely different from that of nearby councils such as Canada Bay. Council staff are very helpful, knowledgeable and approachable. I see no reason to amalgamate.	4/1/2015 3:50 PM

714	I like the feeling of living in a small council and knowing that the council really does have our best interests at heart and are dedicated to their area. An amalgamation would mean that there's one big council building and that there can only be a handful of representatives from our area, and it's likely that local issues would more likely be ignored. I've lived in two very large council areas (Brisbane and Gold Coast, QLD) and some areas definitely got neglected over others.	4/1/2015 3:35 PM
715	I am a firm believer that local councils should be very local. * small councils can be more flexible and reactive to the needs of the community * small councils generally means the relationship between a council and its residents can be more personal * I believe LMC represents the character and cultural values of the constituents exceptionally. e.g. tolerance, diversity and a strong focus on environmental issues.	4/1/2015 12:50 AM
716	Independent is best! It creates personality, individuality and a tight community. Leichhardt and all its surrounding suburbs will be washed out and lose their reputations.	3/31/2015 10:36 AM
717	No preference to stay independent	3/30/2015 3:36 PM
718	it has a record of being a little green and occasionally thinking of the residents. other councils such as Burwood are already allowing new high rise levels that smack of very much overdevelopment.	3/30/2015 10:28 AM
719	easier access to councillors information on too broad an area will be sent out to individuals, less lilkely to take note	3/30/2015 8:04 AM
720	I believe in local representation whose concerns are not spread too widely and who understand the flavour of the local streets. The larger the council is and the more widespread its purview, the more likely that people seeking council services will be delegated a number and treated accordingly. Also presumably this is all about money-given the relatively high rates etc why should we be victims of a Kafkaesque bureacracy as part of a cost cutting exercise? It is a move so typical of the corporatising of all local institutions and beyond-where moeny is the number one value but it is always presented as a boon to the 'consumer-with the expectation that we are too stupid to see through it.	3/30/2015 7:50 AM
721	A Large Mega council with a population of nearly 400,000 would only prove to be a huge logistical issue that could cost more than keeping the councils as is. In a Council of 400,000 individual voices and services would be drowned. I can't imagine that services would be improved, in such a HUGE council. Sydney is a city of neighbourhoods, It is part of the life blood and appeal of our city. To amalgamate these 6 councils is to take away the charm and individuality that each council has.	3/29/2015 9:58 AM
722	While the major political parties continue to receive donations from developers, I will continue to view their actions as being for the benefit of those who have them in their pockets. This amalgamation proposal is yet another crude attempt to thwart the desires of the citizens of Sydney and NSW, this time by diluting their voices on local council. For Leichhardt Council in particular, what ideal timing it would be for developers, with WestConnex being pushed through, and the Bay's Precinct land grab on the table and already with community input locked out. What possible justification could there be for putting a requirement (>250,000) on the population of a local government area if can function efficiently with less than a quarter of that number? Already the amalgamation proposal will have cost local ratepayers time and money in commissioning reports to review and respond to it. Of course the State government is going to recompense local councils for this waste of money and resources. Well, I'd like to see that! The irony being that it is probably costing more than the pitiful amount developers spend to bribe the major parties.	3/27/2015 3:16 PM
723	Mega Councils never benefit the general public. Local intelligence is lost which results in cookie cutter decisions. Dealing with problems arising in Council Services become less efficient. Bureaucratic anonymity increases.	3/27/2015 10:46 AM
724	Diversity in all councils - community groups will not be well represented and heard.	3/26/2015 8:31 PM
725	As a council employee I'm more concerned from a personal viewpoint as to how council mergers will affect my employment. Also I think a smaller council is better placed to cater to the various needs/demographics that make up those suburbs in that area	3/26/2015 4:21 PM
726	1. A smaller council allows residents to know their councillors and therefore better communication when a problem occurs. residents are not just a number. 2. Each council has their own identity and issues which are recognised by their councillors. 3. An amalgamated council would have to share funds among the different suburbs and so some suburbs would lose out.	3/26/2015 4:16 PM
727	The proposed amalgamation would join very different communities. For all its faults, LMC provides a good service, has heritage values and community interests at heart and is financially sound. In the proposed amalgamation the existing Leichhardt Council are might have only two represntatives.	3/26/2015 3:09 PM
728	I have witnessed the resulting loss of representation as a result of amalgamation of Drummoyne & Concord Councils.	3/26/2015 2:58 PM

729	- Councillors will become less approachable with mega-council - Councillors will have less of a connection with the area they represent	3/26/2015 2:55 PM
730	being swamped by other councils and populations, against compulsion Council would get more support from residents if it improved its services and relations with residents and councillors showed more leadership.	3/26/2015 2:51 PM
731	I lived in Brisbane for many years - one Mega Council - and the problems are huge. Lack of local identity, ignored community views and opinions, lack of say by ratepayers because the council is simply too large. The Mayor of Brisbane City Council (formerly "Can-do" Campbell Newman) is paid a salary higher than the premier of the State. The power of this position is enormous, leading to total disregard for the lives or needs of those living in that city. There is a lot of "sameness" across many suburbs due to lack of individual identity. Real estate prices across the proposed merged councils in Sydney could plummet as a result.	3/25/2015 4:44 PM
732	Strongly do not prefer this. A larger more functional council with widespread views would be more effective. I believe we would have access to higher quality representation as well as a greater range of staff and experts to make out local area even more attractive and a greater place to live for different people and communities not just couples and families that can afford to live in a house. We have some very significant assets that require a more regional management approach - I strongly do not believe that Leichhardt council currently has the skills or the vision to plan and deliver these for a catchment of people that exceeds our LGA boundaries e.g. Callan Park and position in relation to the Bays Precinct. The Council's views and expectations are not realistic.	3/25/2015 3:56 PM
733	The whole idea of local government is that councils can focus on their individual areas and stay in touch with local residents' issues and interests. Merging councils would mean local areas would get less individual attention.	3/24/2015 6:10 PM
734	Residents can have more say when there aren't as many people per council. Important to keep local issues local.	3/24/2015 1:41 PM
735	Local government is meant to be just that - local. Amalgamation will destroy the local knowledge and understanding particular to individual communities.	3/24/2015 12:47 PM
736	This is a tough decision I see both sides of the story, I love that fact that areas have individuality and love the idea of keeping it that way but I also see the benefits of cost reductions and the benefits of having a body in charge of a larger area making it easier to create consistency across the suburbs. I'm thinking things like the Iron Cove Bay track and the way it flip flops sides for cyclists and walkers or flip flops path styles around the bay as the councils change, or the cycle paths through the city that are separated in the CBD but become dangerous "Door zone of death" lanes after Anzac bridge, and over in Marrickville are these stupid lanes that while are separated and on the main road and would normally have right of way, have a stop sign each time they meet a cross road and actually make it more dangerous for the cyclists as well as discouraging cycling on them I'd like to see some parts amalgamated and others stay separate, for instance I'd like to see a Sydney Roads and Transport Authority who would be in charge of everything roads and transport between Gosford, Wollongong and the Blue Mountains and maybe consistent building codes across councils but I'd like to see individuality retained for things like local festivals, parks, and shopping centres so the council can respond to locals individually, more closely	3/24/2015 11:21 AM
737	Local issues to be dealt with local council ! People living in local suburbs want locally elected representatives. Less probably political corruption at local level because more local independent people stand and have more to lose. Amalgamation is all about cost efficiency and complete NSW State political control with the likely-hood of deeper corruption within the political state system !!	3/24/2015 10:23 AM
738	There are particular issues we have in our area which requires independence to deal with. Especially planning and development. The residents live very close together and any development in our area impacts on a lot of people. I'm worried about loss of services and the sale of council facilities, loss of local jobs and the absence of advocacy for our local residents and businesses.	3/23/2015 7:04 PM
739	Leichhardt is a unique historic area which has managed to retain its freestanding cottages and federation houses. It should not be further developed as already there is a very low open space/park space ratio to resident. Leichhardt Council manages its assets, infrastrucutre and finances well and does not need supervision or interference from State Government to provide services and facilities for its residents. Leichhardt has a good mix of socio-economic residents providing a high level of social and public housing within its boundaries.	3/23/2015 3:37 PM
740	Community culture, participatory decision making accessible for residents, the Council functions well as is	3/23/2015 9:08 AM
741	I don't see how such a major change would have any benefits. It would be extremely expensive to do and only cause frustration to residents and staff.	3/20/2015 10:11 AM
742	A smaller Council is more personal and gives its residents a sense of Community. With proposed amalgamation this would be lost.	3/19/2015 4:09 PM

743	1. Better service for residents and community 2. More personal customer service for ratepayers 3. More targeted public works, parks and services for the community-a mega council would risk smaller projects not being funded and neglected. 4. More councillor representation	3/19/2015 3:49 PM
744	Loss of say for community members Less comunity projects	3/19/2015 3:48 PM
745	Connectedness of local community - collaboration with schools. Elderley residents and support available	3/19/2015 3:21 PM
746	Has its own identify Feels more inclusive	3/19/2015 3:14 PM
747	I feel we have no affinity with the other council areas mentioned at all. They are suburban while we are Inner West and if we linked with anywhere it should be Glebe (Sydney City Council area now). It would out populate us and our particular take on things, especially environmental concerns that Rozelle/Balmain/Birchgrove are very strong about.	3/18/2015 9:59 PM
748	I am concerned that the agenda for this merge is political. It appears not to be based on economies of scale with the recent evidence providing by some councils. If we were to merge with any other councils is there a guarantee that local governments would also have more power and money to provide services deemed necessary for that particular community - and the state has less. This is surely best practice for our communities.	3/17/2015 11:15 AM
749	I don't feel that services to residents will improve. With one, bigger council, there will be more opportunity for mistakes to be made and for services to be removed, in my opinion. For this reason, I prefer the status quo, of retaining Leichhardt Council as a stand-alone council.	3/16/2015 11:26 PM
750	1 I am completely satisfied living with Leichhardt Council so don't feel a mega council will improve my situation. 2 I feel I will be listened to less the bigger the council is	3/16/2015 10:35 PM
751	development representation sense of community	3/16/2015 9:05 AM
752	We have a number of serious problems in Balmain and East Balmain - eg serioius air pollution from cruise ships, lack of parking, loss of local shops, etc which are better dealt with by a Council already familiar with the area and its particular issues.	3/15/2015 12:21 PM
753	It's service is generally good development controls -if not screwed by the Government-is good good ration of people to Councillors	3/14/2015 9:49 PM
754	Having lived under an amalgamated council in QLD previously, I love the true sense of community I have found here. If Leichhardt is merged into a super council, that feeling of community will be lost. The financial impacts of an amalgamation would be massive, as demonstrated by both history and future modelling. This proposal by the State Government shows a lack of understanding of the people it is charged with governing, and a true disdain for the lessons of other states and countries who have, or are currently, reversing the very same arrangements proposed for NSW.	3/14/2015 11:10 AM
755	I would prefer a council more in touch with our local community's people and identity.	3/14/2015 11:08 AM
756	Better democratic support from Councillor ratio Many sorced from Leichhardt spent in Leichhardt Planning controls will be diluted if amalgamated Lossof identity There is more to a community than the financial criteria being put by the FfF template	3/14/2015 12:28 AM
757	Complex adaptive systems theory.	3/11/2015 11:28 PM
758	Whilst change can be a good thing my experience both here and overseas is that merging units into a larger unit is not really cost effective at all. It invariablably results in an increase of the number of higher paid staff and less staff employed in the day to day running of an organisation. This in turn leads to less service to the community. A case of the usual too. many Chiefs and not enough Indians!	3/11/2015 2:56 AM
759	Councils help with specific issues of an municipality. I don't believe mega councils can do this.	3/10/2015 2:16 PM
760	The case for amalgamations has not been developed independently. Current information is based on ideology. I am interested in hard evidence not beliefs of those who propose any amalgamation.	3/10/2015 12:28 PM
761	Smaller Council means greater access. Leichhardt has a proud history of community consultation and participation. Cooperation with neighbouring councils should be increased and resources shared to save money. Smaller Councils can more easily be kept accountable. Areview of funding for local government is needed not the creation of mega councils.	3/10/2015 11:08 AM

762	* The uniqueness of each existing LGA in terms of statistical demographics, culture and community, physical and social geography, environmental management etc as it impacts on strategic and operational planning and development eg for public and open spaces, waterways, traffic management, zoning for residential/industrial/commercial approvals, environmental management etc. Currently these are different for each of Leichhardt, Ashfield, Burwood, CB, Marrickville and Strathfield LGAs because of their relative profiles. There will be a move to a 'one size fits all' model simply because it's easier to manage. eg. Leichhardt Council is known as a 'green' Council. This identity will be lost or submerged in a mega Council. *Likewise, State government bodies such as RMS, Planning & Environment, Transport will be looking for a single position from a mega council on issues such as urban renewal targets, schools, hospitals, transport, roads (Westconnex) and environmental issues, which ignores the huge diversity of current geographic, economic and social differences between these Councils. * The capacity and ability to plan and act in a time efficient manner as a single and smaller entity and conversely, the growth of a larger bureaucracy that will inevitably result from a bigger entity eg for planning and development, communication/technology, crime management, transport, employment, and most especially for the implementation of council policies. * The expected rise in rates that will result from running and supporting an expanded bureaucracy. * The loss of local knowledge by Council and associated loss of consultation and grassroots contact with constituents. People will just give up trying to have their say about local issues with their representative councillors if they know they are but one voice in a mega council environment. Currently in Leichhardt, people want to and can, identify with their local Council and Councillors because they are very local and always available. This contact and more formal consultations will become more remote with a mega Council because it will become such a huge task to coordinate and knit together at the centre. eg. Drummoyne and Concord councils have already merged to form Canada Bay and there is still disquiet amongst residents at the size of Council's area of management and where the focus of Council's activity is. * The imbalance of power and possible reduction of checks and balances that could result from a mega council and its office bearers.	3/9/2015 10:19 PM
763	- Leichhardt Council is doing a great job and acts in the best interest for our (local) community - Leichhardt has a strong identity and even "personality", being named after an Explorer who also represents the spirit of Australia - Leichhardt Council and identity, both needs to be obtained and preserved; a mega council simply can neither maintain our local identity nor act equally on behalf of more than 300,000 citizens. One Council for the population of Canberra? Unimaginable, unthinkable! - Leichhardt does not have much in common with Ashfield, Burwood, Canada Bay, Marrickville and Strathfield. Keep up the diversity. Diversity is what makes our country so strong and gives us a future that we can rely on. Just have a walk through the main streets of these suburbs, then tell me why each of them should be staying independently ... If you can't, the locals will! - Business wise, economically, mergers / amalgamations may be great solutions to make a big step into the future, securing market share, profits and jobs. However, councils are not businesses, they are more not-for-profit-organisations. They are representing the people, acting on behalf of their citizens and being of service to them, making their community a better one, a fair one. A mega council will not be able to represent the people locally, to act strongly and decisively on their behalf and to be of great service to them, neither individually nor as a defined community. - Seeking the services of a consultant firm is a good decision, they have a much better insight in local structures and issues to give us as citizens an independent view and opinion. If their studies will recommend a mega council as a stronger and better alternative to the status quo, then so be it. But they have to give us a guarantee, get it in writing, let them put their money where their mouth is! - Also, let me tell you: as many others in our precinct as well, I am paying my taxes. If the state's government is going to make such a big decision on changing local political structures, then they should ask us first whether we want / support such changes or not. We are the people. It is our decision how we want to be represented and who shall be representing us, not how the government want it to be. We are still living in a democracy, designed by the people, not by politicians. Organise a local plebiscite ... If a majority of people would prefer a mega council, then I'll be the first to bow to their will.	3/9/2015 9:57 PM
764	I do not want LMC to stay independent. It is hopeless, clueless in forward thinking and has no idea about the VALUE of 'beautify ' or 'atractifying' the suburbs especially Historic Balmain. It takes TIME to mange this but it should be a integral part of the image and well being of the Community . The management need to be held accountable especially on the wages negotiated. You do not give the option of voting for a merger with the Sydney City Council which is where I believe we should be. A merger with the SCC would be a much better option.	3/9/2015 9:51 PM
765	Leichhardt council have been totally INEPT & they are only concerned about losing a spot on the gravy train & not its constituents best interests. FACT	3/9/2015 9:21 PM

766	LMC is a friendly, beautiful place. The Council has had a huge role in creating this over my 42 years of residence. We have a balance of residents of all types (multicultural, age, etc.) I cannot see this being reproduced with amalgamation. With ser4vices for most. Our town planning has been well above average with very liveable suburbs and almost enough open space. Rates are reasonable considering things like our grass merges being mowed - the many Seniors in the area can not manage to do this and I am sure that there are many families who don't even own a lawn mower. There are heaps more reasons why I do not want our precious area to have to comply with the lesser standards of friendly community. .... NO AMALGAMATION	3/9/2015 4:22 PM
767	- Local identity - Local community - Supportive of sense of place and sense of identity	3/9/2015 3:37 PM
768	The suburbs which form the Leichhardt Municipality are a strong cohesive community. We definitely have different needs, wants and priorities. The other Municipalities are the same in this regard. So, joining us as one community would polarise us on many issues and divide us on most. This would make us vulnerable to the forces which are the the foe of all communities.	3/9/2015 1:10 PM
769	I would prefer the Leichhardt area maintain its independence and identity	3/9/2015 12:29 PM
770	As an inner city council the nature of Leichhardt community is quite different from the others. Hence needs its own council	3/9/2015 11:09 AM
771	1. don't believe the level of service would improve being part of a mega council - too large, resulting in loss of service 2 It's hard enough to get council to provide basic services now believe as part of a mega council this would be impossible. 3. Leichhardt Council have good rubbish collection, recycling program I am not aware that the other councils will have such good services in place. 4. Big is not aways best. 5. There is no guarantee that our rates will not increase with the merger. 6 There is no guarantee of any improvements being part of a larger council. 7 The only council who I would be happy to merge with is the City of Sydney - as they have a positive track record.	3/9/2015 9:25 AM
772	To allow the council to focus on the fewer suburbs it looks after and I don't like the suburbs we would merge with.	3/9/2015 8:37 AM
773	Loss of identify, higher rates, confusion, loss of jobs, services. Leichhardt Council has improved over the years and getting better and better if we merge we may loose all of the hard work it has taken to get to this point of sustainability and respect from our rate payers	3/9/2015 6:24 AM
774	It is part of our local identity. If merged Leichhardt area we are likely to just become a small fish in a big pond, with the potential of Councillors loosing touch with the specifics of the area and get absorbed into the politics of a larger organisation. Staying small and nimble has its merits to be flexible enough to respond quickly to the changing requirements of the immediate area. While there would be many merits for amalgamation, including the usual economies of scale, Leichhardt Council could easily offset these with improvements to its own inner workings and reduce costs and improve services. Leichhardt can improve planning processes, waste services, parks and gardens and achieve service improvements and enjoy cost savings that could be converted to further improvement of services and give our local area a real point of difference, rather than just being more of the same.	3/8/2015 9:27 PM
775	I think that the proposed amalgamation takes in far too large an area.	3/8/2015 4:09 PM
776	Bigger is not always better. Bigger can be more efficient (economically) but there is always a loss to the general public/community. It's also about local identity rather than one size fits all which tends to happen with amalgamations.	3/8/2015 2:25 PM
777	Leichhardt Council is, as everyone knows, financially viable and consequently we do not need any sort of amalgamation. Besides the lack of any financial need, we cannot trust the current Liberal government to protect our community from developers. It is apparent that the Liberal government of Mike Baird wants to pour billions of dollars into needless and wasteful construction projects and into the private bank accounts of property developers. We cannot trust the factional hacks of either the Liberal or Labor parties, but we can put some trust into the people we elect to represent us on Leichhardt Council. I want local people to work for me and my community. I believe in direct representation which is what we have to a great extent at the moment. We do not need a larger, more distant Council that lessens our ability to govern ourselves.	3/8/2015 2:13 PM
778	If amalgamated, the inner west suburbs currently under the direction of Leichhardt Council would completely lose their identity. We would become a minnow in a large council amalgamation.	3/8/2015 9:44 AM
779	Indecent council providing service to fewer people thereby more like to cover issues, address concerns and be more effective	3/8/2015 9:38 AM
780	Bigger does not mean better. Too big loses community focus	3/8/2015 8:24 AM

781	You have local access to council employees and services. There would be no local representation. The council staff would expand. You would still have to have local depots.	3/8/2015 6:41 AM
782	1. I want to be able to continue to participate in decision making. 2. I don't want service delivery to deteriorate. 3. I don't want loss of advocacy on local issues. 4. I don't want loss of accountability. 5. I want to be able to continue to talk to decision makers directly. 6. I don't want rates to increase and services to decrease.	3/7/2015 11:00 PM
783	The value of local government is that it IS local and focusses on issues and problems particular to our area. The areas proposed for amalgamation are very different from each other and particular concerns would get lost. The idea that money would be saved is dubious. A large Council would not be more efficient. I would prefer rational sharing of resources, ideas and in some cases, facilities, with other nearby local councils while retaining the interests of Leichhardt as central. Councils have already demonstrated ability to work together while separate entities. Leichhardt Council is financially viable and I doubt there would be any financial advantage to residents through amalgamation.	3/7/2015 9:37 PM
784	The local council is proactive and against high rise development which is the reason why we purchased our home in Leichhardt.	3/7/2015 8:38 PM
785	I believe a Leichhardt council would mange the Leichhardt area better than a bigger council responsible for managing a much bigger area.	3/7/2015 5:46 PM
786	Smaller would be better for each area, otherwise we will be supporting other areas with our rates with nothing to show for it.	3/7/2015 4:50 PM
787	Leichhardt area has it's own specific culture, issues and needs. To amalgamate it with other areas will result in losing effectiveness in meeting the needs of the area and its people.	3/7/2015 3:03 PM
788	Local council has local knowledge. An amalgamated Council would not know micro details of the electorate.	3/7/2015 12:55 PM
789	Balmain would lose it's historical footprint. Heritage values are very important in Balmain and need to be tightly monitored. The present council does this effectively. I would not like to see old housing stock & buildings knocked down to make way for modern development. We need a council that knows and appreciates our local amenity. LMC does a good job. With an amalgamated council locals would have very little or no say in community issues and outcomes.	3/7/2015 12:37 PM
790	The mega council would just be another state govt We need one federal govt and smallish councils We don't need state gives and we certainly don't need pseudo state govts known as mega councils	3/7/2015 12:16 PM
791	Leichhardt Council has improved in some area but still needs to improve in others first by getting rid of the amount of red tape it imposes residents! Leichhardt already services a big enough Municipality. If creating Mega Councils have not worked in the past why go there and waste time and money when these resources can be better directed at improving the services.	3/7/2015 11:55 AM
792	Leichhardt Council has close links with the community which is one of the reasons we like living here. This would be lost with a Mega Council.	3/7/2015 11:27 AM
793	I don't mind Leichhardt amalgamating with the city, but not with Burwood or Canada bay. surely not community evenness must apply. the communities of Burwood vastly different to Leichhardt.	3/7/2015 11:15 AM
794	A greater number of residents under one council would not allow for grass roots participation and for residents to know their Councillors and Council officers It would not be possible to have particpation of residents and proper consultaion if there were a much larger number of people to be included - it would definitley mean that a smaller proportion of residents would particupate activley in governance Local government is the very foundation of democracy Services provided by LMC are excellent & LMC is financially secure so there is no need for amalgamations for financial security. LMC is already sharing some services etc with other Councils without amalgamation so there is no need for it.	3/7/2015 11:12 AM
795	Retain the character of the local area I don't know what percentage of the population the current Leichhardt LGA would be in an amalgamated Council; would the residents have as much of a say as they do now? Retain the historical link to the past by preserving Leichhardt Council	3/7/2015 6:21 AM
796	Leichhardt council already has a large area to support, unless the new West Mega council plans to hire a lot more staff to provide support and review services, it could never work. I doubt that adequate staff would b e employed as the government is inclined to reduce staff. I see the proposed amalgamation just another cost cutting vehicle which means less and inadequate services.	3/7/2015 5:28 AM
797	We are serviced exceptionally well by the current council....we feel we get very good value for our rates...we would suffer as part of a bigger council...	3/7/2015 4:14 AM

798	The mega Council is not the answer, although a merger with the City of Sydney would be OK. If that's not possible, Leichhardt should remain as is.	3/6/2015 10:51 PM
799	I compare it to Ashfield I went to a knitting group in Haberfield library.. it was upstairs and no lift access..........I am disabled others are old.........we depend on public transport. One of the ladies at the front desk suggested I try Ashfield I compare Norton Street Festa with what ashfield has in haberfield. the first one i haberfield was a delight located in a small park.. a fantastic atmosphere. when i went back next year it was in the street only nothing for disabled respite there is an attitude that Leichhardt has that Ashfield does not.. leichhardt seems interested in its residents and attempts to provide servies and cultural activities in a more inclusive way	3/6/2015 9:10 PM
800	I do think the residence would loose so much if they were under a super sized council. I believe the residents should be the one's to decide if they want to be governed by a huge impersonal council. Local councils should be what they are "local" councils with local living councellors who know the area. Local councils and residents should not be dictated to by a state government.	3/6/2015 8:38 PM
801	More red tape to go through when making decisions on our community.	3/6/2015 8:14 PM
802	Accessibility Charcater of area	3/6/2015 8:13 PM
803	The local council supports the local people and community. Moving to one larger council would not be as focused on the individuals and local issues. Leichhardt council have been supportive to the locals	3/6/2015 8:11 PM
804	I live in Canada Bay Council area... so am answering this as resident of one of Leichhardt's neighbouring Councils. I wish for all of our councils to remain independent.	3/6/2015 7:34 PM
805	The merger model has not worked well in other states.	3/6/2015 7:21 PM
806	Because bigger Council are far less cost efficient.	3/6/2015 7:19 PM
807	Our Leichhardt Council area has been and still is distinctive.This is based on my residence since the 1960s and takes into consideration the changing populations during this time period. There is a heightened sense of interest and energy as to what happens in Our Council area - don't change this sense of belonging.	3/6/2015 6:55 PM
808	The municipality is big enough at present and any increase would make local issues much more difficult to address and more likely to be ignored (or actually opposed) by "influential persons" in other areas.	3/6/2015 6:48 PM
809	Local Government should be just that... Local. We have State and Federal bodies for larger issues. If local Councils were to merge they will loose touch with the reason for their existence in the first place, to look after issues and services that are relevant for their local community. Whilst many services across all local government areas are common, the Leichhardt area has a unique personality and therefore unique concerns, issues and also benefits! If the council becomes a super amalgamated Council, these smaller unique benefits that set the area apart will be lost in a massive population with too many differences to be addressed properly. This would be extremely sad to see these things lost as they are a major part of why people choose to live in a particular area of Sydney.	3/6/2015 6:37 PM
810	big business will ride roughshod over local concerns	3/6/2015 6:21 PM
811	So that leichhardt residents interests are looked after.	3/6/2015 6:16 PM
812	It is the reason I live in the inner west. It is like a village. i don't want any Westrfields or mega-institutions. I prefer the corner shop and smaller versions of the bigger supermarkets. I like the user-friendly infrastructure of Leichhartd Counil as an independent.	3/6/2015 5:43 PM
813	Although amalgamation can have improvements in operational efficiencies , often unfortunately means a worsening of lower end services as no one wants to claim responsibility for them and they are the first to be axed.	3/6/2015 5:34 PM
814	Each area has its own issues A bigger council area will wash over local issues. If this happens, what is the point of having a state government? At what point does consolidation stop?	3/6/2015 5:34 PM
815	Development control and services.	3/6/2015 5:33 PM
816	Local Government should be "Local".	3/6/2015 4:23 PM
817	I have friends who live in and/or worked for local councils that were forcibly amalgamated in Queensland and it was a disaster. Some years later de-amalgamation was voted for by citizens. The cost of amalgamation then de-amalgamation was borne by ratepayers. These amalgamations seem to me to be more about State governments consolidating THEIR power at the expense of local councils. And I am one of the many who feel that national and local governments are all that we need in this country and State governments should go not local councils.	3/6/2015 4:21 PM

818	I want "my"council to genuinely act in the best interests of my local area ie Leichhardt, not a large inner west region as a whole.	3/6/2015 4:03 PM
819	Leichhardt Council is most inefficient and does little for its community other than the bare minimum. I appears to be run for the employees and most have little interest in our community. I am sick of seeing council trucks pulled over for a smoko and not doing their job. Amalgamations will get rid of these poor practices and hopefully provide better supervision.	3/6/2015 3:58 PM
820	Mergers lose people's sense of place and identity; they conflate bureaucracy and bureaucratic inertia; savings are spurious. Leichhardt has a workable balance between administration and community consultation. Leichhardt has also been corruption-free.	3/6/2015 3:55 PM
821	Leichhardt Council has over many years forged a distinctive identity as an inner city municipality whick could well be lost in a mega amalgamation.	3/6/2015 3:52 PM
822	N/A	3/6/2015 3:39 PM
823	I believe that democracy needs to stay relatively small to be successful at a council level and I believe that Leichhardt Council is already large enough. Even if a cost saving with a mega council was achieved I think this would come at the price of public feelings of involvement, which lets face it, are not high as it is.	3/6/2015 3:29 PM
824	I don't want Leichhardt to stay independent. Achieving the right merge solution will be important. Personally would prefer to merge to City of Sydney council.	3/6/2015 3:25 PM
825	Individual Councils are much much more likely to have a better "feel" for the peoepl , the area etc, plus the smaller councils will respect the history, the cultural diversity that is micro specific to each are. there is more of a sense of community and belonging when the councils have their own area. we are already loosing all our identities. I say an absolute NO to the 'Super (bad) councils.	3/6/2015 3:17 PM
826	Although shared resources can be useful and efficient, in many other ways the heart is removed from the working. Local council cares about it's community and this disappears very rapidly when amalgamation occurs. I know because I lived in Auckland when they did the same. It was efficient but no one cared about the people so large policy manuals became the excuse to not provide personalised service.	3/6/2015 3:11 PM
827	An important reason why we have local councils is because local councils and their members are in close touch with the people who live in these councils and are thus more aware of their needs etc.. By amalgamating a number of local council into one great big super council this very important advantage disappears and we might as well not have councils at all.	3/6/2015 3:11 PM
828	Science shows that belonging to and participating in a community is one of the most important contributors to a person's sense of wellbeing. Leichhardt is community - large but not impersonal. Inner west megacouncil would lose all sense of community.	3/6/2015 3:08 PM
829	I am also a rate payer in Noosa Shire in Qld. The Sunshine Coast (mega) Council was forced on Noosa Shire by the Qld government of the day. They were forced to merge with Maroochydore and Culoundra creating a vast geographic LGA. It did not work for Noosa. Income and resources were diverted from Noosa Shire (the most prosperous LGA) to elsewhere and Noosa had much stronger planning laws than the other LGAs that favoured high rise development, so the integrity of planning and development in Noosa was at risk. It was a very unpopular amalgamation. With a change in state government there was a referendum held and Noosa ratepayers voted to de-amalgamate, even though there was a significant cost ($22 million) to re-establish itself. Since the de-amalgamation Noosa Shire has been thriving once more. Whilst there may be some economies of scale from a larger council, I believe that Leichhardt LGA is the "Noosa" of the inner west and we have far more to lose than gain from an amalgamation.	3/6/2015 3:04 PM
830	Without thorough analysis of how each area will be appropriately represented, it feels cheap and premature. I understand the argument of cutting duplication of work, but if there is no evidence of increased service for all then why invest in the project?	3/6/2015 3:04 PM
831	Leichhardt Council is financially sustainable as it is and has the capacity to stand alone. There is no evidence that bigger would be better. Leichhardt Council currently meets five of the seven ‘Fit for the Future’ benchmarks and will be able to meet the two remaining benchmarks over the next five years. The proposed ‘super council’ would have a population of 342,000 residents - an average increase of around 300% in the current populations of the inner west Council areas, leading to a loss in representation in all of the Council areas. A merger would be expensive.	3/6/2015 2:55 PM

832	This is a governmental push to get rid of local council input and to open the flood gates for all the decisions to made by the politicians, their bureaucrats and the big end of town and to totally override local community inputs, their wants and their demands. Without the status quo local people will be removed entirely from the decision processes concerning the areas where they live. The push for this type of structuring has already started by the government trying to uniformly streamline the way that Councils are being told to structure council groups and committees. One of the out comes of these new structures is to erode the ability of the community to voice their community demands.	3/6/2015 2:52 PM
833	Large councils are more open to corruption and bullying. Representatives are less identifiable. Different councils will need to deal with different local issues. Money spent may be unequal. Minority groups may find it difficult to be heard. Loss of the sense of belonging and contributing to local community. It is great to have connections with neighbouring suburbs and councils where we collaborate and participate as individual groups.	3/6/2015 2:29 PM
834	1 Of course retaining its identity is important for Leichhardt. Local colour and character is very important. 2 A smaller Council is to some extent personal. One gets to meet councillors at local community events. 3 In a mega-council it is impossible that this would happen. 4 Councillors care about the area they represent. Councillors in mega-councils could not. The area is far too large. 5 Services would be bound to suffer. 6 History and tradition are important. Councillors are generally from the area they represent. This relates to 4 above.	3/6/2015 2:27 PM
835	More say in local community matters. More say in providing input and dispute developments that are not appropriate to the area. Local integrity would be lost if taken over - what would happen to planning???? Who would be the mayor and how about massive job cuts?!?!?!	3/6/2015 2:23 PM
836	local focus on local issues by local people. less faceless bureaucracy.	3/6/2015 2:14 PM
837	Proximity and accountability of council to our current unique community Focus attention on our unique challenges in the area The current council area is big enough, and further diversity will Logically result in a break down of managing unique and specific challenges to Rozelle where I live We don't want BIG Developers to be allowed to roll over the voice of the people, diluting our vote by involving people too far away to care about our unique concerns and visa versa must not be allowed, we after all are the local community, the voters and investors in this area, our voices must be at the top of the list	3/6/2015 2:10 PM
838	You would be mad to stay independent	3/6/2015 2:09 PM
839	local identity with long history unique housing from late 19 century ready access to council staff and to councillors those employed on council, and councillors know the Leich. LGA exceptionally well (this could not poss. be the case with such a massive council, as proposed by state govt., as too many differences on so many aspects exist amongst all of these council areas)	3/6/2015 2:09 PM
840	preservation of heritage local representatives making local decisions infrastructure requirements for LMC best known by our local representatives more immediate accountability	3/6/2015 2:07 PM
841	It's important that a council is aware of local issues and is able to support the local commmunity. An amalgamated inner west council would not provide sufficient local oversight or representation. Despite the potential cost-saving benefits of such an initiative, the role of a local council is more than just administrative. It engages and brings together the community through sponsoring and organising local events such as International Women's Day, art exhibitions, concerts, festivities; it responds to local issues such as childcare shortages; it supports and drives local initiatives such as business development (e.g. renew Leichhardt), new sporting facilities and parks, child and aged care activities; it represents the community at a variety of forums in order to ensure our views are heard; it manages development to ensure our local community remains sustainable and a healthy place to live. Furthermore, independent councils enable a variety of voices to be heard and allow for greater diversity.	3/6/2015 2:01 PM
842	Access to appropriate people in different departments To maintain sense of local history here and in each other council area Belief that big is not better in councils , supermarkets or most anywhere	3/6/2015 2:01 PM
843	I believe it is vital for a community to be governed locally. I am afraid our local interests will be lost in a larger council, as it would simply be too cumbersome to try and take each suburb's individual needs into consideration.	3/6/2015 1:56 PM
844	Leichhardt has more in common with the City of Sydney. I would prefer an amalgamation with the City than the western councils. This is a shoddy survey. I think you need to reassess the questions and do a trial run of Survey Monkey. Question 13 can't be answered "other" without ticking a box. Also, the questions are loaded. I don't support amalgamation with other Councils to the west but the questions in this survey are really biaised, and have made me angry. Questions 1-3 are silly, as I got through to this survey, from a link in an email from Leichhardt Council and thus, through the website. So, of course I am now aware of the amalgamation - but I wasn't aware before I got the email. Do you mean, do I want any MORE information, other than what is on your website?? What do you mean in those questions?? Please reconsider your wording.	3/6/2015 1:54 PM

845	I would much rather get rid of the middle tier of government ie the State Government and just have National and Local governments. There is much more scope for participation in local government as it is now. Councils are already large and very busy so to be massively larger is ridiculous. Ordinary people would get no say on important issues in a mega council. Councils can already share ideas and resources. They don't have to amalgamate to do this.	3/6/2015 1:53 PM
846	Council is already large enough that an individual resident can get lost in the system, if the councils are amalgamated into a mega council what hope does anyone have of being heard. Plus what interest would a mega council have in dealing with issues that only effect a small area?	3/6/2015 1:53 PM
847	I believe that in a bigger organisation individuals get lost. The mega council proposed is too broad and I do not feel there is commonality of issues. I would be very concerned if it were to happen it is hard enough to have a voice at state and federal level. Leave my council alone.	3/6/2015 1:52 PM
848	I am concerned about the following: * rates and other service increases: * drop in service levels; * less say in local decision making for a Balmain resident as we would be one of many suburbs; * change in direction and focus of policy. I voted in a council based on their policies for our area; and * I am not interested in the wider inner west. I do not use the facilties or travel to those areas. I do not see any value add or merit in the amalgamation. I only see downside! I have seen this occur where other councils have amalgamated and this has been to the detriment of someof the areas.	3/6/2015 1:51 PM
849	Currently the council is very efficient, fast to respond and a pleasure to deal with. Someone always answers the phone personally which is very important.	3/6/2015 1:51 PM

Q11 If you want Leichhardt to merge into an Inner West Mega Council, what are your reasons for preferring this?

Answered: 366 Skipped: 1,012

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Answered: 366 Skipped: 1,012

#	Responses	Date
1	Reduce major inefficiencies and reduce over representation by politicians	6/10/2015 10:07 AM
2	n/a	6/3/2015 6:52 PM
3	RIDICULOUS IDEA!!!!!	5/27/2015 11:22 AM
4	Experience with planning approval for a simple renovation has left me with expensive legal bills, an unsatisfactory DA and utter contempt for LCC and its DA process and personnel. If amalgamation helps get rid of dead wood and incompetents then all for it. The survey q's "y" "n" and "unsure" are poorly designed and will elicit a biased result. opportunity for efficiencies across the councils remain under utilized despite years of opportunity. Too many layers of government.	5/26/2015 5:32 PM
5	United we stand. We would have a stronger influence if we unite as a whole. Also, people (residents / us) we could all have our say if the council held meetings regularly and encouraged public to attend and voice opinion etc. A mega council would definitely be stronger in the long term.	5/26/2015 5:27 PM
6	This is a ridiculous survey that provides only choices between Leichhardt or a 'mega council'. Does the council really care what people think or is it only interested in a scare campaign so councillors can hold onto their jobs? I have lived in this area my whole life and dealt with council many times and would have to say that it is an organization that cares little about the quality of service to residents and ratepayers as opposed to grandstanding for narrow interests. Look at the vast improvement in Glebe since it was moved from Leichhardt to City of Sydney. How much money is council wasting on this campaign? Start focussing on local services, local jobs, local infrastructure rather than your own meal tickets. If you are serious about local democracy then please ensure that my response is quoted in your survey results.	5/10/2015 10:52 PM
7	Not applicable	5/9/2015 8:36 AM
8	Australia is crippled by political strata. the fewer levels of government the better. This survey is an example of political opportunism: Question 6 is rhetorical. If the council ceases to exist it can not have an identity. A reasonable answer to question 7 would be that it makes no difference but you have not included this option. "unsure" is not normally an answer	5/6/2015 8:39 PM
9	Every time I have to work with leichhardt council they are next to impossible to work with, rude and unhelpful. They run the council for their own views, not the benefit if the community. They have successfully killed norton st through its strick development controls. Not to mention costs, one mayor instead if 5, that's a huge salary savings alone!	5/6/2015 2:41 PM
10	Cost savings and efficiency improvements	5/6/2015 1:51 PM
11	Leichhardt Council is very poorly run and difficult to deal with. A merged council will bring many efficiencies. Better planning will result and current local councils are 19th century constructs. We live in a metropolitan city that needs metropolitan governance! If Blacktown can be a council with 300K people and Brisbane with nearly 1 million what is so special about Leichhardt? Also - this questionnaire is heavily biased to reach a pre-determined (anti-merger) outcome.	5/6/2015 11:56 AM
12	Leichhardt Council is an inefficient bullying council and is past rehabilitation.	5/6/2015 11:12 AM
13	Shared resources.	5/5/2015 5:29 PM
14	Will decide when I have sufficient information to form an opinion to support or not support an amalgamation.	5/5/2015 4:03 PM
15	I have no wish for this.	5/5/2015 3:32 PM
16	The way Leichhardt council is currently run is appalling - partially in the planning and development department, this has been the case for sometime. This new mega council might actually bring some progression to the development of Leichhardt & Annandale.	5/5/2015 3:31 PM

17	Economics of a scale. Stop big fish cllrs in the small pond of Leichhardt. A regional development and vision is preferable to the do nothing greens of leichhardt	5/5/2015 3:28 PM
18	Leichhardt Council are unprofessional, power hungry, useless 'public servants. I would hope that none of the Leichhardt Council staff are employed by the mega council and a far better planning team is implemented with fresh ideas. Leichhardt council is stale and extremely hard to deal with.	5/5/2015 3:27 PM
19	The lack of proper administration and management by the council has been chronic for years. The money wasted while basic asset management services are left undone and even ignored has made the area in parts appear like a slum. Would prefer to merge with Sydney but would prefer to see any change at all from the mal-administration we've been subjected to for years!	5/5/2015 10:23 AM
20	Improved efficiencies and economies of scale.	5/4/2015 9:05 PM
21	N/A	5/4/2015 7:03 PM
22	prefer merger with Marrickville and Ashfield only as we have much in common	5/4/2015 4:47 PM
23	ridiculous we have 12 councillors; more efficient if bigger lga	5/4/2015 4:45 PM
24	If it makes commercial sense, the amalgamations should happen.	5/4/2015 4:43 PM
25	economies of scale, efficiencies, less politics, better staff	5/4/2015 4:40 PM
26	less bureaucracy, more efficient, improved services	5/4/2015 4:38 PM
27	It would have to be better than the current council. Leichhardt Council is a disgrace. I would prefer an amalgamation with City of Sydney. An amalgamation will save money which could be spent on infrastructure	5/4/2015 4:30 PM
28	efficiencies gained, improved planning, more sustainable, better careers for council staff, strengthens local communities against big developers.	5/4/2015 4:26 PM
29	I believe Brisbane is the ideal model for local councils. Where one city has one council. The myriad councils in Sydney, in my view, overall detract from the quality of life in Sydney. I believe if Sydney had one council Sydney would be more cohesive, organised and better serviced.	5/4/2015 4:22 PM
30	Larger council means more efficiency in services through greater scale and purchasing power, consolidation and rationalisation of bureaucracy, and improved / diversified services. Brisbane City Council is the benchmark. Council is not identidy, its the locality and community itself. This is inevitable as a small, bloated, inefficient and inwardly focussed council is not sustainable.	5/4/2015 4:16 PM
31	More economic. Hopefully DAs would be processed in a reasonable time. At present the time LC takes to approve a simple application is unacceptable and incompetent.	5/4/2015 4:01 PM
32	Greater uniformity in planning etc remove duplication eg payroll, accounts function drive efficiencies, more bargaining power less waste, more accountability and scrutiny Let residents decide for themselves based on facts, not blindly follow Council's recommendations. How can Council be objective when faced with job cuts? Time to stop milking the gravy train council!	5/4/2015 3:59 PM
33	Council has contracted most services yet staff costs remain very high. An amalgamated council could represent much better value for rate payers. It is nice to see loyalty square upgrade but try walking down Darling st on southern footpath on a dark night and not fall or twist an ankle has been like this for 30 years.	5/4/2015 3:55 PM
34	There are too many councils. Massive duplication of costs. Inconsistencies between councils. It does not make economic sense to have so many councils. People power will still exist as a safeguard.	5/4/2015 3:41 PM
35	Less red tape Cost saving Less senior staff less councillors / mayors more financially viable Would prefer merger with Sydney City	5/4/2015 3:26 PM
36	I don't want LMC to merge into an Inner West Mega Council	5/4/2015 3:17 PM
37	Higher level of professional support on planning matters More open approach to sensible, right scaled development suited to Australian Citizen - first home buyers Avoidance of parochial nimbyisn Stop wasting my money on biased "nudge" surveys I grew up living in a large Council Area	5/4/2015 1:34 PM
38	Wont be determined by a DCP that allows Council to justify DA rejections on a DCP that is so anti development - A Council that is not influenced be the bit progressive agenda	5/4/2015 1:28 PM
39	To stop the waste of money Leichhardt Council is spending - to save money - to set better services I cant wait for the new mega Council	5/4/2015 12:52 PM

40	no particular desire to see this need more info to make an informed decision There has been inadequate discussion of this proposal. We need to see the modelling of projected implications.	5/4/2015 12:46 PM
41	Leichhardt Council is top heavy waste money to save money - too many Councillors. To get better services to fix the road or streets and footpaths for older people	5/4/2015 12:46 PM
42	Don't want it to happen	5/4/2015 12:34 PM
43	nil	5/4/2015 12:27 PM
44	none, even the potential cost savings could be achieved through the establishment of shared services in many areas	5/4/2015 12:24 PM
45	This Council's shambolic treatment of Darling St Balmain over the last 30 years - result ugly, unco-ordinated street-scaping, unsafe footpaths, roads full of potholes, development applications and application of planning controls erratic and inconsistent and substandard. Any change could only improve the situation for Balmain.	5/4/2015 11:55 AM
46	Standard local govt response across a broader area. Moving only a few kilometres and having the rules change is not good governance.	5/4/2015 12:13 AM
47	The Rats are still in the Ranks.	5/1/2015 8:20 PM
48	For far to long , Leichhardt council has been unproductive , to the extent where our local economy is in dire straits. From being a vibrant cosmopolitan area to a dull uninspiring suburb. Locals have expressed their feelings in a diplomatic fashion with no action. We have had it ! and now our livelihoods are in danger. Council is in surplus due to revenue from parking meters which ripped the soul out of Leichhardt. Priority spending on beautification and height restrictions on buildings are the key to rejuvenate this district. While this mob is in , it will never happen... So many reasons that Lechhardt council is a complete failure. Curious to see how much it spends on land and environment court every year ? Leichhardt tigers site debacle leichhardt tigers oval bitumen footpaths ugly mainstreets italian forum park rotundas and roundabouts disgrace. disapproval of police station..Are we serious. Please amalgamate ASAP	5/1/2015 1:45 PM
49	Efficiency	4/30/2015 1:48 PM
50	- will it drop my rates by 50%? - will it increase my representation? - will it increase my access to services? - will it increase my quality of life? - will it ensure community? - will it just be another state government with the it's population so far removed that they have no voice in their local community?	4/27/2015 8:35 PM
51	Nil	4/27/2015 12:40 PM
52	1.Efficiency in development costs. 2. Clearer & fairer development rules. 3. Greater professionalism. 4. Economy of scale. 5. Norton St and other local business areas have been destroyed by Leichhardt council. Marrickville, Canada Bay, Strathfield and Ashfield have thriving strip shopping and local business districts. 6. Leichhardt Councils Rangers have an attitude that they are something akin to Wild West Marshalls. I would like to see a less aggressive approach. Burwood councils are worse. Marrickvilles are much more approachable. 7. Councils need to focus on local issues only. Nothing broader. Larger council would challenge the local fiefdoms that have been created amongst minor but more vocal groups. 8. Entertainment venues need to be encouraged not demonised. Leichhardt Council has assisted in the destruction of the local music scene. Marrickville council does this much better. 9. The difference between the quality of amenities in Leichhardt by comparison to Sydney City Council is stark. With greater efficiency we should see a large benefit to quality of parklands and hopefully a few more Olympic size swimming pools. Kayak Storage at Iron Cove.	4/27/2015 9:11 AM
53	I think maybe merging with 1 to 3 other councils would be best ie: Marrickville, Canada Bay, Leichhardt & Ashfield. I feel these areas cover a similar population and all have similar needs.	4/26/2015 10:08 PM
54	I don't believe the council in its current form has the will or the power to really enrich the local area. They seem to be a toothless tiger. Shops in Balmain and Leichhardt have been empty for years, and the council seems to be ignored on issues such as the cruise ship pollution and bays precinct redevelopment and callan park master plan. A partially amalgamated council would have a louder voice and even if it were just a sharing of services, funds and resources could be freed up to pursue initiatives that enrich and enhance the precinct.	4/26/2015 8:01 PM
55	Economies of scale, potential for more sustainable Inner West, better scope for 'Whole of Inner West' planning and service outcomes.	4/26/2015 6:01 PM
56	I DO NOT want Leichhardt to merge into an Inner West Mega Council.	4/26/2015 3:58 PM
57	Not enough information	4/26/2015 1:35 PM

58	It's ridiculous to have 6 local Councils for such a small physical area. At present 6 lots of Council staff and 6 lots of Councillors are being supported by ratepayers. In a Mega Council there would be only 1 lot of Council staff and 1 lot of Councillors to support, even if some more staff are necessary to undertake the work. There would of course be economies of scale in an amalgamated Council. Nevertheless we are having the idea of separate Councils pushed down our throats, by the very people who stand to lose under amalgamation. A number of Councillor positions would disappear - no great loss to ratepayers. 6 x Councillors' junkets would be reduced to 1 x Councillors' junket - no loss at all (except to the Councillors). There would be rationalisation of Council staff, as tasks would not be duplicated across 6 Councils. Think how much of ratepayers' costs could be reduced by this measure. Councillors have a conflict of interest in supporting 'no forced amalgamations' and this conflict of interest shows up clearly in the material they have sent to ratepayers, very biased towards 'no forced amalgamations'. It even shows up in the wording of this survey. Ratepayers in the Inner West area are currently paying for 6 x Council staff, 6 x Councillors (What is the total number of Councillors in the 6 Councils? I don't think we've been told that in the material provided). It's bleeding obvious that amalgamations would be financially beneficial to the ratepayers. Who is speaking up for them?	4/23/2015 5:16 PM
59	The job of the council is to ensure that communities need and the local area is well nourished & looked after. Mega doesn't necessarily fit any category. It means unmanageable and not responsive. Therefore to ensure it stay grass root one needs to have a smaller footprint in order to be effective. However if there is a rot it probably is with the staff and it's deployment. I would rather see staff and other amenities shared over with various councils rather than regroup to form one cumbersome entity. Parking Inspectors have little to purpose in today's transition and can technology could be used along side sharing spaces with local residents & outside residents with time limits. The current system is old and outdated and nothing but cash cow for local government. It does little to improve the parking problem rather policing has a negative effect on councils attitude towards changes in an ever changing community and habits.	4/23/2015 4:08 PM
60	I believevit will bring needed cultural change and improve quality of services.	4/23/2015 2:42 PM
61	Less wastage of OUR money	4/23/2015 11:17 AM
62	Too big Anonymous Less efficient	4/23/2015 11:12 AM
63	Makes sense.	4/23/2015 10:35 AM
64	Something has to change Leichhardt council has had way to much power for to long I have worked with Leichhardt council for the past 7 years and it must be the worst run council in Sydney if not Australia. Treating anyone who want to develop or improve there home like a criminal, Aggressively Anti Development Everything thing is a problem, supporting every whim of the Multi Millionaires in the electorate. Trying to introduce a social state where the collective has all the say and individual property owners have to take a back seat, and are losing the property more rights by the day Extreme left policies and passive aggressive behaviour, and unfair decisions, Annandale Hotel as an example. Doing everything in there power to stop developments which are 100% compliant. Spending large sums of money on Green Propaganda when they should be spending it on pathways and on the community, I support the Future amalgamation plans and will be see if I can help to make it happen.	4/23/2015 10:03 AM
65	The less government beaurocracy the better.	4/23/2015 9:57 AM
66	I would support a single council combining Sydney, Newcastle & Wollongong. Four other regional councils in NSW and abolish state government.	4/23/2015 9:49 AM
67	fewer pigs at the trough	4/23/2015 9:20 AM
68	More cost effective, less infrastructure, more streamlined	4/23/2015 9:16 AM
69	The days of small councils are over. There is too much duplication and waste associated with small councils. I think there would be economies of scale benefits with amalgamated councils	4/23/2015 8:53 AM
70	No thanks. Got better things to do than agree with those morons.	4/23/2015 4:49 AM
71	Cheaper rates better management of the built environment Broader community interaction	4/22/2015 11:53 PM
72	Councils are good at day to day things - rubbish, footpaths, park maintenance. Bigger councils have more buying power so more should get done. They are bad at standing up for the community now (big planning approvals! WHY do we bother to have a future desired character document at all??) which is the only argument being given for independence. Comes across as hubris. Of councils stood up to State and Business, and made our footpaths usable without claiming poor (can't so that with a war chest bank balance AND claiming building lighting towers is for ALL of the community against the will of the master plans!) we would feel you are one of us rather than just another bunch of power trippers.	4/22/2015 8:48 PM

73	I do not support a mega council though do see the merit in possibly merging with Canada bay. they are similar localities and think a merger would benefit both councils. reduced issues with waste collection and the like would be beneficial.	4/22/2015 7:24 PM
74	Cost savings in back office admin. Better deals on rubbish collection, road repairs and park maintainence. If Balmain didn't lose its identity under a move to Leichhardt council why would Leichhardt lose its identity under and inner west council?	4/22/2015 7:08 PM
75	N/A	4/22/2015 6:50 PM
76	Saves money good idea Get rid of the stupid power station that is the ugliest builomg in Sydney should not be heritage listed	4/22/2015 6:38 PM
77	.....	4/22/2015 5:57 PM
78	Save money by reducing duplication of services. Better reflect the integrated state of Sydney's inner western suburbs; what goes on in Leichhardt strongly affects surrounding suburbs and vice-versa. Take power away from wealthy NIMBYs who are driving up house prices and rents through their myopic self-interest. Brings Sydney closer to a properly governed world city like New York rather than a series of small-time fiefdoms.	4/22/2015 3:30 PM
79	No way	4/22/2015 2:24 PM
80	Ha-de-ha.	4/22/2015 2:08 PM
81	Leichhardt Council has been dominated by a vocal minority for too long. Get rid of the council, create a bigger one so that the vocal irrelevant minority voices can be drowned out by the deafening silence of the majority.	4/22/2015 1:33 PM
82	Need More Info.	4/22/2015 12:33 PM
83	none - it would result in far more bureaucratic, more expensive and top heavy corporatised management, and be far less responsive to the local community. it would prevent council fighting for just outcomes on behalf of its residents	4/22/2015 12:03 PM
84	Leichhardt Council's D-Day is coming!! The corruption and jobs for mates will soon come to an end!! It has been such a long time coming and as a community we need a council who is sincere, has integrity and one that we can trust. Everything this council knows it is not.	4/21/2015 10:33 PM
85	Less duplication of services.	4/21/2015 2:26 PM
86	Possible cost efficiency.	4/21/2015 2:03 PM
87	Leichardt council had made the decision to install parking meters in Norton St, and since then the restaurants on the street have lost most customers. If the councils combine, hopefully a silly decision like that will not be made at the whim of a single council.. but we can only wait and see…..	4/21/2015 1:07 PM
88	Economy of scale Hopefully remove the influence of the major political parties from an area of government that should only be concerned with the provision of services such as good roads, pathways, libraries, car organisation ie parking, innovative solutions for ensuring a vibrant village like centres around long established shopping centres, supporting the Connex to move traffic quickly of existing minor urban roads, etc. It shouldn't be involved in any social engineering that aligns the Right and Left against each other but allows god ideas to come out and be supported by all councillors - not rejected just because the "other side" proposes them	4/21/2015 12:06 PM
89	Small Councils are ineffective and slow to make changes. Amalgamation will provide better regional planning creating a more sustainable and functional city.	4/21/2015 12:05 PM
90	I do not like the idea of a Mega Council but I do think councils need to be larger. A merger with Marrickville would result in an acceptable size council	4/21/2015 10:12 AM
91	I think that Leichhardt Council should be amalgamated into the City of Sydney Council whilst I am also somewhat supportive of the proposed Inner West Mega Council. There needs to be a shared strategic vision for the development of the area as a whole and that will be best achieved by amalgamating Leichhardt Council with the City of Sydney Council. The area has too much importance and significance within Sydney to be run by a small local Council. The planning of major infrastructure changes and new roads will be better coordinated by amalgamating Leichhardt Council with the City of Sydney Council.	4/21/2015 9:30 AM
92	While there are downsides to a mega council, it's hard to imagine that it would be less responsive to the needs of local residents than Leichhardt. Having lived in a number of council areas in the inner city/west, I think Leichhardt Council has a lot to learn from other Councils about good customer service. My preference would be to keep the local government area the size that it is, but if it's a choice between status quo and a mega council, I reluctantly chose a mega council.	4/20/2015 8:26 PM

93	I am not from Australia originally and I actually find it a bit strange that there are so many councils in one area. to a certain degree I think it would make more sense to merge things.	4/20/2015 4:05 PM
94	Time for the Local Government Councils to respond to the needs of 21st Century and why leave that decision with the turkeys currently running the show for their self-interest and vocal minority. 1. Leichhardt Council is itself the result of previous amalgamation 2. Its time to continue that evolution to delivery value for money services to the larger community and reduce the parochialism. 3. Lets reduce the number of chiefs attempting to "run the show" and focus on delivery of services to the community at large. 4. Lets have value for money with more staff to do the work. There is no need for 6 General Managers, 6 Mayors and hangers on in 2015 to get us to 2036 and beyond.	4/20/2015 3:20 PM
95	N/A	4/20/2015 12:34 PM
96	Of couse better service is whats desired that somehow got lost to that ole bullshit called progress meaning cutting costs etc. Too many public servants getting paid for being lazy, it will keep the lazy on their toes and they wont close all the libraries which means that Leichartd and Balmain wont be the only library there will be more choice and get rid of the self sevice and employ people who cares for the patron. Libraries are not banks or supermarkets they lend books and information that doesnt require self service. That needs the best service available otherwise close it by all means. If they cant provide quality service then why visit the library when info and books can be viewed on line so algamation is fabulous as it would provide the best service and get rid of lazy or worthless places	4/19/2015 6:22 PM
97	As above .. Local council knows local areAs	4/19/2015 4:31 PM
98	To provide: better resources, a greater ability to attract and keep better staff than they currently have, a greater ability to govern, a greater ability to provide services, less myopic and insular focus on minor local issues whilst missing the big picture, a greater perspective in development and planning issues To be less beholden to local vested interest groups To have a broader representation of citizens per Councillor to be able to develop big picture strategies rather than a conservative do nothing approach to local government.	4/19/2015 1:24 PM
99	The overall performance of Leichhardt Council is quite poor and seems to have been run for years by a group of parochial amatuers. Albeit well meaning] For a Council to be effective it requires a larger and much more professional standard of management. A larger council would be much more likely to attract a higher calibre of staff at the senior levels.	4/19/2015 11:33 AM
100	I am not in favour of any directive from United Nations interfering with Domestic Policy and Procedure, trying to bribe Australian Mayors and State and Federal Law Makers to implement the unconstitutional LA21 Directive, from UN Agenda 21. Read this ridiculous statement, and see which side of the fence you sit on! : 'The barriers are outdated national governments and the millions of selfish people who cling to the idea of local rule. The entire world must be merged into a communitarian system. Because so many resist, it's best if only a few know about it until the integration process is complete. ' http://nord.twu.net/acl/research/agenda21.html One word for it is Treason.	4/19/2015 11:21 AM
101	Leichhardt is one of the most expensive Municipalities in which to live,and one of the least efficient. Amalgamation can bring economies of scale, make it possible to have a full-time, salaried Mayor attracting a higher caliber of candidate who could devote all their time to running the Municipality. It could also reduce the wasted expenditure on so called "expert consultants" that Leichhardt appears wedded to whenever a decision has to be made.	4/18/2015 1:13 PM
102	Definitely don't want this	4/18/2015 1:02 PM
103	Greater scale and progress rather than cottage councils too small to matter.	4/18/2015 9:28 AM
104	I heard that some other councils run more efficiently than Leichhardt council so the new Inner West mega council can capitalise on this.	4/18/2015 12:18 AM
105	not applicable	4/17/2015 7:21 PM
106	No	4/17/2015 7:15 PM
107	No. Structure will be too large	4/17/2015 6:03 PM
108	I don't think that Leichhardt Council is very well managed or that the Councillors always make the best decisions for the community as a whole with regard to spending. I think a larger Council would be less influence by single issue pressure groups. I think we woudl get better outcomes because there would be better specialist expertise.	4/17/2015 3:32 PM
109	I need more information as to what is proposed before I make an informed decision	4/17/2015 11:25 AM
110	xxxxxxxxxxx	4/17/2015 10:50 AM

111	To become efficient, to speed DAs, to avoid silly council developments, to make the commercial/retail sectors viable. to be new blood into the staff.	4/17/2015 10:14 AM
112	None	4/17/2015 9:38 AM
113	I feel Leichhardt Council is no better than the surrounding councils in terms of the services it provides that I use (Library, garbage collection etc.). There are some things surrounding councils do better, like the libraries of Marrickville and City of Sydney and Magic Yellow Bus services, so I am not strongly attached to remaining part of Leichhardt Council. Leichhardt Council has a reputation for making any building or development applications unnecessarily costly and difficult, and this is one of the main reasons I am not opposed to a merger. The one council service I think is very good is provision of playgrounds and the White's Creek area (orchard etc.)	4/17/2015 12:29 AM
114	The whole issue is mute. Many other cities have merged councils no problems. Brisbane has just 1 council. There are many advantages. Local identities are not lost just because a council merges.	4/16/2015 11:49 PM
115	N/a	4/16/2015 11:45 PM
116	I have none!	4/16/2015 11:08 PM
117	as above	4/16/2015 11:01 PM
118	Totally oppose it!	4/16/2015 10:54 PM
119	- Much improved economies of scale - Reduced duplication of servces and personnel - Larger revenue pool to underwrite a greater range of specialist resources - More professional approach to local government - More strategic, consistent and large-scale approach to plannng, approvals, etc. - Less petty polticking and parish pump grandstanding - More coordinated approach to the Inner West's overall governance - More leverage and negotiationg power when dealng with the State government I have always been impressed that Tokyo - a city with a larger population than of ALL Australia - is run very efficiently by a single body, the Tokyo Metropolitan Authority! Runnng our much smaller city through a mosaic of local government fiefdoms, one need hardly wonder why the Japanese haven't copied OUR system...	4/16/2015 9:25 PM
120	reduce over heads and the over management ..	4/16/2015 9:21 PM
121	Leichhardt Council is far to slow in approving DA's for no reason that is logical. Leichhardt town planners do not return calls as a general rule. If one happens to be available, they do not or will not provide information about town planning. Generally, unless members of the community are paying their rates over the counter, they feel that service to the public is a chore.	4/16/2015 8:30 PM
122	Better quality of service from a well resourced council. Better quality Councillors	4/16/2015 7:35 PM
123	I do not support the proposed merger.	4/16/2015 6:48 PM
124	Greater efficiency in operations Reduced numbers of highly paid executive staff Broader capacity to plan It's not about Leichhardt per se - about 50 years ago there were three or four municipalities in what became known as South Sydney. Sensible amalgamations occurred and expensive duplication was reduced It simply makes good economic sense and will provide greater financial leverage in increasing the capacity to deliver services - and then in delivering them	4/16/2015 6:04 PM
125	a bigger council will have more power to oppose silly state gov or federal gov policies and projects. The city of Sydney has more power to oppose outside gov.	4/16/2015 5:23 PM
126	I would like to see Leichhardt merged, but not with as many councils as proposed. Perhaps with just one of either Ashfield, Canada Bay or even Marrickville as there are many synergies. Not just physical location and I feel this is a more manageable size that would ensure services are retained at community level. Also the answers to the questions above are clearly weighed to the "No Amalgamation " camp. Question 6 and 7 especially. Of course all councils will lose their identity if merged, but why would that be an issue?! This is about the community not the council. And I also think levels of service will remain the same, but I not given an opportunity to answer in that way.	4/16/2015 5:23 PM
127	Easy management and possibly savings.	4/16/2015 5:07 PM
128	Leichhardt council hasn't done there job in looking after norton street the place has been dying for years and they have done nothing, I can't really see their value for staying, I hope that the mega council will see value in keeping the all area alive	4/16/2015 5:05 PM
129	Should be more efficient. Should make planning decisions more consistent across the region. Should remove parochial behavior of small councils.	4/16/2015 4:54 PM

130	Too many councilors already, sitting at desks, pushing pens and nosing in on issues (political, international etc.) that have nothing to do with council work. Would be better less of you and more work done.	4/16/2015 4:14 PM
131	No I have never wanted a merger of councils anywhere.	4/16/2015 4:04 PM
132	Greater effectiveness and resources. Costs savings.	4/16/2015 3:20 PM
133	Firstly,a comment. The use of language in this survey reveal the attitude of the survey creator - "strong risk"; "forced to merge" and "Mega Council", is emotive and misleading. You may unnerve more naive respondents into thinking this is necessarily a bad thing without giving any information about how their are opportunities arising from a more economically viable, diverse and amalgamated Council would be a good thing. Secondly, I think that larger councils will be more professionally run, more focussed on the key roles of local government, have fewer idiosyncratic interests represented through elected representatives who seem to use Local Government as a training program for entry into State politics, or are disruptive and abusive of their role as a community representative and cause chaos and expense because of legal challenges etc.	4/16/2015 2:27 PM
134	Do not want this.	4/16/2015 2:26 PM
135	There would be more power and resources in such a council, the downside being losing touch with the Council growing to an unmanageable size. Not sure if the size is okay or too big?	4/16/2015 1:57 PM
136	The efficiencies of the larger council.	4/16/2015 1:34 PM
137	Economies of scale, shared services, depots and rid Leichhardt of it's anti-development agenda. Get things done as less governement to deal with. less government and councillors, council staff = more affordable government.	4/16/2015 1:27 PM
138	There are two many small Councils in The Sydney metropolitan area meaning that they are under-resourced and unable to develop strategic responses to development issues facing the whole city. The ongoing problems regarding Parramatta Rd Arran example	4/16/2015 1:26 PM
139	I think some level of amalgamation is probably necessary and a good idea for cost savings and a stronger voice (ultimately). Don't necessarily agree that it the mega Inner West council as proposed is the best outcome.	4/16/2015 1:21 PM
140	More efficiency, greater cooperation between council services (eg libraries), greater buying power	4/16/2015 1:19 PM
141	My personal view is that there are too many Councils in Sydney and some are too small to be sustainable into the future. I am not sure if Leichhardt is one that is too small or what size it should grow to and who it should amalgamate with at this stage, My ultimate would be a small number of expanded local councils and NO STATE GOVERNMENT but that ain't gonna happen.	4/16/2015 1:16 PM
142	Reduced overhead costs, more coordinated urban planning.	4/16/2015 1:16 PM
143	Bigger rate base and better capacity to provide regional infrastructure, such as regional bicycle plan	4/16/2015 1:16 PM
144	Cost savings by amalgamating back office functions. Less wasteful political spending on campaigns on climate change and refugees and others. Keep the focus on the real issues of council ie. Rates, roads and rubbish.	4/16/2015 1:16 PM
145	Leichhardt council has been attacked (and rightfully so) for being irrational, inconsistent and unfair with rules in regards to improving our properties. They have taken away areas of parks from dog owners (there are many dog owners in the inner west) They are very difficult to deal with and we get different answers to questions from different staff members at every visit to the council. I went to the council with the correct paperwork (given to me by the breeder) to register my pet and when I presented the paperwork to the desk with my payment it was torn up and I was then given another form to complete which I did (thinking they knew what they were doing) weeks later I received a letter from the council to say that I'd provided the incorrect paperwork and my pet was not registered. I never went back... having paid my money I figured they had no right to not have my pet registered.	4/16/2015 1:15 PM
146	Stops Leichardt Council wasting $400k on needless paving scheme in Balmain!	4/16/2015 12:42 PM
147	Lets face it - planning approvals process and services couldn't get any worse.	4/16/2015 12:09 PM
148	If a merger is unavoidable for whatever reason them I suggest a merger of Marrickville and Sydney would be a better fit.	4/16/2015 12:03 PM

149	Australian's have too many layers of government and while the "Mega-council" (by the way - nice use of the implied pejorative to help your anti-merger along - a real time example of Ingsoc) retains a layer, that will be five less elections to run. Larger councils have numerous benefits. Economies of scale producing reduced costs in management, basic services like garbage collection and planning approvals. Much better coordination of policies and operations across the larger area and I expect to see better policy and projects because they can be better funded as the larger council would have access to a larger pool of funds and can focus on a larger picture, minimising localised neighbourhoods complaints and opposition to developments which would benefit the larger population.	4/16/2015 12:00 PM
150	No No NO NO	4/16/2015 11:56 AM
151	Having lived in the municipality for over 40 years and watched the machinations of various departments, esp planning, and then being subject to the illogical (and often uninformed) decisions of Councillors, there is little doubt in my mind that it is long past time that power was taken from these people who appear to make decisions based on personal whim and idiological standing. And we haven't even mentioned the possible economies of scale in many areas yet.	4/16/2015 11:20 AM
152	I have had repeated bad experiences with LMC regarding DAs. My own DA required threatened legal action to get a second heritage opinion that agreed with our DA proposal. The planners then put conditions on the proposal that made it almost impossible to achieve without redesign and section 92 application. Secondly, a DA proposal for our neighbours was approved despite our reasonable objections and breaking a number of the requirements of the DCP. When I tried to contact Councillors requesting them to take the application to a full Council meeting by phone message and email only one Councillor replied, and, as he knew me, said that he could not get involved. The remaining Councillors that I contacted did not even reply to my messages or emails, the application was therefore approved under delegation by incompetent planners. A friend who was an assessor on the NSW Land and Environmet Court reviewed the approved application and stated that that it would have been rejected had I been able to refer it to the Court. As you are aware, unless the Council makes a mistake in Law, the affected party cannot take the matter to the LEC. As I'm not a lawyer I did not know what a mistake in Law was, but I suspect that non-referral to a full Council meeting may well have been just that, I don't know. Perhaps a larger Council would have a more competent and professional planning function controlled not by Planners but by Architects with some design sensibility. Urban upgrade work done by LMC sits very poorly when compared to the design excellence achieved by Clover Moore's City Council.	4/16/2015 11:19 AM
153	The entry to Norton Street in particular the West side after the laneway, always has overflowing bins and dumped rubbish. The most council do is place "unacceptable" stickers on it & leave it. All rubbish has to be removed whether legal or otherwise or it creates a general dump AND deters people from visiting & dining in the street (except for yahoos & others who dont care about environment). The view from the small Thai restaurant on opp side of Norton nr bustop is not pleasant when diners have to look over at rubbish. It's not pleasant walking into my main street & seeing all this. Most is outside the "24 hr gym". Regardless of who is responsible, it has to be cleared immediately each time & up to council how they investigate to find perpetrator. The owner of gym building should be warned as overflowing bins & dumped items such as cardboard appear to originate from there. Only CCTV will identify others. This lower part of Norton with its take aways & dumped ribbish looks slummy. Not the street sweepers fault at all. There is clearly no strategy at management level for removing dumped items immediately. Placing stickers has no effect at all. WHY ARE THESE BUILDINGS ALLOWED TO LEAVE BINS ON STREET ALL THE TIME? There is nothing to lose by amalgamating as already Leich has shown it cannot manage main street of its namesake suburb. Amalgamated council could not be worse. Neighbouring council areas appear to better manage main streets. Doubt if anyone will even bother to read these comments, as if council cared they would have daily supervision at senior level of state of main street. Thanks to the street cleaners who seem to get little support - we see them cleaning daily but obviously not permitted to remove the dumped items/empty overfilled bins.	4/16/2015 11:05 AM
154	I think you put forward a very biased case for NO change which is poor. I haven't seen anything in your information http://www.leichhardt.nsw.gov.au/Community-Issues/Council-Amalgamation-Risk/Council-Amalgamation-Risk#position that shows a balanced view. Actually I just noticed references to supporting discussions for possible reform but its hidden within one of the many pdfs. I think that your page leads people in one direction and does not set forth a set of information to make a reasonable (admittedly there is a lot of information) decision. This should be a decision by the people and the councils after you have weighed up the costs of benefits of both sides, or alternatively the other options that should be put forward. For the majority of the public take away the legal phrasing, simplify the language and put forth a case for both sides and let people choose.	4/16/2015 10:55 AM
155	I could see the benefit of merging with one other council area e.g. Marrickville OR simply Canada Bay. I think that might be manageable but not the mega council areas proposed.	4/16/2015 10:45 AM
156	no	4/16/2015 10:43 AM

157	A general argument is that a bigger council would have a better chance of being listened to in development debates with the State Government, and would be better able to achieve new housing goals while preserving properly heritage areas. Moving to the specifics, getting rid of Leichhardt Council would be a positive, as it is a notoriously poor performer in terms of development approvals. The declaration of all of Balmain as a Conservation Zone, has the effect that development approval is needed even for changes to the back of a building built in the 1990s and overlooked by buildings built between the 1970s and the 2000s. This is way too much intervention in something which has zero heritage value. They whinge about the State Government not wanting to build a bike path (the Greenway) when they could very easily fund it themselves (Borrow the money and pay it back over 10 years - the sums are trivial as a share of the rates revenue). Or another example from a few years ago - the refusal to approve a Coles-owned bottle shop on Darling Street, on the basis that there was inadequate rear loading area - when there was another bottle shop 50 meters along the road with the same lane for loading. It's not the Council's role to police competition. Appropriately, this decision was overturned on appeal.	4/16/2015 10:39 AM
158	Leichhardt Council should have supported Metro train system. Jamie Parker is just another politician, not a real greenie. Still can't believe how anti-public transport he is.	4/16/2015 10:39 AM
159	Too many snouts in the trough with so many different councils.	4/16/2015 10:37 AM
160	A bigger council would mean more funds and therefore better services to the residents of the area. People in council are protecting their own jobs and careers and therefore not supportive of the amalgamations and out scaremongering the residents. Amalgamations would remove inefficiencies in current councils.	4/16/2015 10:34 AM
161	Inefficient and unprofessional in a number of areas.	4/16/2015 10:18 AM
162	better services due to more budget to spend on council services but also slightely lower rates.	4/16/2015 10:14 AM
163	I actually think that Leichhardt Council should merge with Marrickville and Ashfield Councils to form an inner west council. Strathfield, Burwood and City of Canada Bay should also merge as three Councils.	4/16/2015 10:05 AM
164	Lower rates and better service	4/16/2015 10:02 AM
165	Fewer pigs at the trough?	4/16/2015 9:57 AM
166	Possibly better outcome for all, cost savings, better cross area planning (extended lightrail and perhaps Metro initiatives, new housing, industrial cleanup, livibility (read LESS ROADS and LESS PLANES) and environmental projects).	4/16/2015 9:57 AM
167	Never!	4/16/2015 9:56 AM
168	I'd like either state level govt or local level govt abolished. My preference would be state govt to go if I could choose. This country is over governed and over regulated with relatively high taxes. The sooner one goes the better. I see the local council as an expensive garbage collector - that's the only benefit we get along with the libraries. Still pay way too much for these. I also think there's too much corruption with both levels, eg ryde, Wollongong Ashfield - if we can get Rid of local or state govt, hurrah	4/16/2015 9:43 AM
169	Sydney councils are too fragmented; this model may have worked 100 years ago.	4/16/2015 9:39 AM
170	VERY MUCH AGAINST THIS.	4/16/2015 9:27 AM
171	I do NOT want this to happen!!!	4/16/2015 9:25 AM
172	Saves money, reduces unnecessary jobs, allows less red tape for things such as tree removals, tree pruning, reduces the red tape of permits, reduces the cost of these permits, reduces red tape overall so there is finally progress within the community and makes the Leichhardt Council (or what is left of this arrogant council) more accountable for their actions within the area. It's about time this happened!!	4/16/2015 9:23 AM
173	Progress - lower council fees	4/16/2015 9:21 AM
174	No point in articulating my points as you are already against amalgamation.	4/16/2015 9:10 AM
175	I believe that a larger council would improve the quality of service delivery. I also think that a larger mega council would be in a position to come up with better integrated plans for a larger area in the Inner West.	4/16/2015 9:07 AM
176	Leichhardt Council has an extremely poor record with processing DA's. The entire DA process is dreadful. On this basis alone I wouldn't be against a merger as it would probably introduce greater efficiencies into the process.	4/16/2015 8:49 AM
177	Scale, efficiency, ability to plan and deliver more . A larger resident base and rates will allow more ambitious projects to be funded in a shorter period of time, and would give Council more say given large resident base.	4/16/2015 8:47 AM

178	Leichhardt Council charges much higher Rates than surrounding Councils, Sydney and Marrickville for comparable Properties, provides a lower Level of Service and charges for Services the other Councils provide at no or little Cost. My preference would be for an Amalgamation, part with Sydney City and part with Marrickville. Do not know enough about Ashfield, Burwood or Canada Bay.	4/16/2015 8:44 AM
179	Reduce costs	4/16/2015 8:43 AM
180	Improved performance, too many unpopular decisions by Leichhardt council re development, issues that don't concern rate payers and one out personal or green choices that are not popular with general population e.g. Leichhardt Oval, Balmain Leagues club, lack of support for playing fields in area and marked increase in recent years of increased child population, in short lack of vision.	4/16/2015 8:40 AM
181	Many other cities in the world (even Brisbane) don't have a lot of small local councils. They operate very effectively with one council covering the whole city. Why not Sydney? In about 1948 there were a lot of council amalgamations - e.g. Balmain and Glebe councils were abolished and merged into Leichhardt - and the world didn't come to an end, though at the time a lot of people probably predicted it would. Economies of scale can make things more efficient and cost effective, and local input to decisions can be ensured by having local representatives as councillors.	4/16/2015 8:39 AM
182	Maybe more efficient,and better delivery of services. I need independant review and analysis of the proposal.	4/16/2015 8:39 AM
183	I feel that council is so divorced from us here in the local community that it would make no, or little difference. I would like to hear the case that would promote eigher argument, for/ against, then make up my mind from that available information.	4/16/2015 8:37 AM
184	As above	4/16/2015 8:11 AM
185	There are too many bureaucrats and duplication of work. One mega council will improve efficiency save on cost and reduce ever increasing rates	4/16/2015 7:59 AM
186	N/A	4/16/2015 7:57 AM
187	I would prefer a mega council to save on costs. When the fee for an inspector to come to my property to look at a tree is $300.00 then there is something radically wrong with Leichhardt Council.	4/16/2015 7:55 AM
188	Because your service level is significantly below City of Canada Bay and your cost is not providing any additional benefit. By the way, who ever worded this survey either is not a professional in that area or is clearly attempting to gain a response you can use for political purposes. For example:Do you feel that Leichhardt Council would lose its identity if this was to happen? The Council will be gone so clearly the answer is yes- the important important question is "Do you believe your suburb, and the other suburbs within the reach of the Leichhardt Council area, will lose identity if the Inner West Mega Council is implemented?" Also, I do not recall the formal name of Inner West Mega Council being used before- if you came up with it for this survey then shame on you- again it is designed to get a negative response in the survey as Mega sounds like something from a science fiction story.	4/16/2015 7:49 AM
189	I have heard about the mega councils in Brisbane and that they are a better model and way of functioning. I think there could be cost reductions with a merger as well.	4/16/2015 7:48 AM
190	Leichhardt council's development decisions undermine familys who want to continue to live in the area.	4/16/2015 7:44 AM
191	Some things might be better - where economies of scale can result in better quality services it enhanced options.	4/16/2015 7:41 AM
192	Provision of services requires scale. 300,000 people would seem a reasonable population for a local provision of services - enough say for the community with good cost benefits.	4/16/2015 7:38 AM
193	Efficiencies in local govt Better scale working together on facilities for the district Less opportunity for local corruption and cronyism	4/16/2015 7:36 AM
194	I am unsure. I have written my reasons for not amalgamating above. The only advantage of having an Inner West Mega Council would be the coordination of issues like traffic management that affect Inner West residents across the whole Mega Council area. Also a consistency throughout the area regarding waste management. The other advantage for people would be staying within the same Council area when/if they move, e.g. from Leichhardt to Ashfield, compared with the current situation where people moving around the Inner West move from one Council area to another. This issue particularly affects tenants without secure tenure who are forced to relocate on a regular basis, and boarding house residents who would have one set of guidelines/policies throughout the area.	4/16/2015 7:32 AM
195	None	4/16/2015 7:18 AM

196	I am not a resident of the area. I live in Brisbane which has had a "mega council" for nearly 90 years. It has been beneficial, especially for library resources. Local identity is not dependent upon the council. A local councillor will represent the area. Since I lived in Sydney, I have considered that the small local council is not suited to 21 st century life. Each ward, or local council area, has maintained its distinctive character in Brisbane.	4/16/2015 7:15 AM
197	Efficiency Less Politics	4/16/2015 7:09 AM
198	There might be some services that could be delivered across a mega-council area e.g. waste. However, as noted above the innovation of environmental waste service delivery may have only been possible at the outset because of small innovative councils that had the foresight to take such action.	4/16/2015 6:36 AM
199	I feel there is too many councils in sydney and since I work in a public library I think it would be great to merge with other councils as the client has access to more resources	4/16/2015 6:13 AM
200	I think that merging councils will save money which should be directed into much needed public services	4/16/2015 5:26 AM
201	I'm sorry to say that Leichhardt itself doesn't have much character, except for that white elephant named 'The Forum' of course. Balmain is the primary 'character holder', so to speak, and it will always be unique. The library will probably remain, not that I use it much, but I don't have any other interaction with the council. The 15 minute free parking is nice. Frankly I have thought, and commented fairly recently that Leichhardt council has run out of ideas; let's face it, Norton Street can hardly be more dead, even in day time. As for late evening, one can become afraid of losing one's way in the murk.. Then we have that lonely dank-looking shopping centre down Marian Street, what's it's name? I think Marian Street was busier when I first knew it early in the 70s! So no, it can't do any harm to replace it with something hopefully more vibrant; or gentrify it so as to remove any need for vibrancy.	4/16/2015 4:43 AM
202	None	4/16/2015 4:12 AM
203	More efficient ..	4/16/2015 12:43 AM
204	Less waste of resources, e.g I could have one library card instead of several.	4/16/2015 12:28 AM
205	Leichhardt Council has lost touch with its residents and their changing needs. While I totally support all the heritage piece around making sure we do not loose this they have lost sight of the growing demands for housing, living in tight spaces and there is huge amount of emphasis on privacy in an area such as Leichhardt. Council also seems to have lost touch with investing in footpaths and roads, not major roads but smaller roads and laneways. It seems disgusting that the people that yell loudest get the best outcomes, rather than having a plan - even 10 yr plan to improve suburban roads & footpaths. The street and laneway I live in have not been resurfaced for over 20 years and there are potholes everywhere - disgusting!	4/16/2015 12:26 AM
206	Reduction of waste and less nepotistic decision making. Our councils are too small to justify so many repeated responsibilities.	4/15/2015 11:57 PM
207	You constantly say no or make it really difficult for people when they are trying to improve their homes, remove dangerous trees, change their development plans... You would think if you want the support from the residents that you do not merge you would be a little nicer. You also keep saying ' we don't get involved with matters because its on private land' yet if anyone is to move as much as one brick on their home that does not require planning permission you are down on them because some neighbor has called you up complaining. You keep talking about keeping houses in line with the street however there isn't one street in Rozelle that all the houses are the same, the is very little room for negotiation, its your way or no way. Really you have nothing to worry about, any other organization on the planet where there is a merge, positions are lost but your jobs a secure for 3 years, how nice for you the rest of us just get made redundant. Dealing with the council is like dealing with a bunch of blinkered, smug, closed minded decision makers, who like to add stress and worry to normal people who pay their rates.	4/15/2015 11:28 PM
208	Unreasonable building da approval wait times and very little done to improve norton street trading.	4/15/2015 11:14 PM
209	Save money on duplication.	4/15/2015 10:59 PM
210	1. Nobody home at Leichhardt Council 2. Have attended council offices in person several times over the last few months - the person I needed to speak to is either away or just will not come down to the front office. 3. Very slow to respond and a Mega council would improve the situation so they can get rid of the deadwood.	4/15/2015 9:52 PM
211	See response above - do not want a mega council as proposed.	4/15/2015 9:34 PM
212	Leichhardt council makes no effort to make base case budgets without building assumptions of rate growth ahead of inflation	4/15/2015 9:26 PM
213	Lower costs, efficiency, avoids duplicating services that all councils share	4/15/2015 9:21 PM

214	Centralising shared jobs/resources. Don't see the council working for me as it is. The idea of council identity & basing your argument on this is ludacris & not important to the average rate payer. Focus on what matters to us;services, facilities, parks, packing, supporting local business, tree safety (not protection) & spend & thoughtfulness of approving DAs. Get on with doing a great job & your job & status quo will be protected - until then... I don't know... Bring on change.	4/15/2015 9:19 PM
215	Efficiencies Question 7 didn't allow for unchanged. I think I would have precisely the same level of say.	4/15/2015 9:04 PM
216	Efficiency of service provision and ability to plan strategically for growth. Major (or "Mega") Councils exist in other jurisdictions such as Paris and London and appear to work perfectly well.	4/15/2015 9:03 PM
217	The council is too small and under resourced. It's outlook is restricted to only a small area and I therefore don't understand many of their decisions in light of the bigger picture. I think a larger council that's better resourced for all of the inner west would do a better job and offer a more professional service, and hopefully a more productive relationship with the state government.	4/15/2015 8:48 PM
218	While identity is important to a small area, the benefits of a larger council with economies of scale would be preferable as it would allow for more facilities and opportunities for residents. For example, more libraries on the network, a reduction in overheads across all the council areas.	4/15/2015 8:16 PM
219	Current council is inefficient and seems to be run by the employees and a minority party. Past policies have been disastrous such as the introduction of parking meters. Balmain has little parking and there is no real attempt to manage traffic problems. Parks in our area are rundown and even lawn mowing is irregular. We need a more professional approach and a mega council will do this as occurs in the SCC.	4/15/2015 8:16 PM
220	It will lead to a better resourced and more efficient service provider for ratepayers. A number of council amalgamations have occurred since local government was first introduced in NSW and each time the same arguments have been put forward about loss of representation and independence. Better service provision to ratepayers should be the key deciding principle in this decision, not fear of change.	4/15/2015 7:49 PM
221	Leichhardt Council is broke, lacks adequate staff size to provide effective service, lacks assets and size to generate revenue other than through rates and taxes, is lazy with its resources and generally has only reviewed its service level in light of the mega council agenda. I am appalled with the amount of money and time it is using to gain support for the objection of this smart move by the NSW government (and I am a Labor voter).	4/15/2015 4:48 PM
222	Potential reductions in overhead costs (staff, offices, equipment, purchasing, etc)	4/15/2015 3:42 PM
223	Perhaps with a bigger council, the budget might get bigger and my salary might increase.	4/15/2015 2:09 PM
224	This move would not be beneficial to the Leichhardt community	4/15/2015 2:01 PM
225	I am not sure that the number of council's to merge is too large. I really question why we have three layers of government, there is a bigger question that should be asked and explored rather than tinkering at the edges with amalgamations. The challenge is I don't know enough about it.	4/15/2015 11:54 AM
226	I do not think a merger, especially of this scale, is the right thing to do for the residents and people in these areas.	4/15/2015 9:17 AM
227	My dealings with LMC have been mostly negative. A small, compliant, development took 19 months for approval. The delays were very costly.	4/14/2015 11:29 PM
228	Reduce the number of local councils should reduce costs with the economies of scale. I think Leichhardt could merge with another council but not sure if it should merge with 5 others.	4/14/2015 7:04 PM
229	NONE	4/14/2015 6:23 PM
230	Less Council persons, broader decision making capability. Uniform services.	4/14/2015 1:12 PM
231	Because there is too much Government and too many people employed to do the same job across these areas. (And too many Mayors and councilors wasting everyone's time) It only takes one Mayor to cut a ribbon!	4/14/2015 11:47 AM
232	Leichhardt Council has had a long history of incompetence, bullying and abusive behaviour. It has been a forum for would-be politicians to enforce their personal ideologies on the public. The Council has pandered to so-called resident action groups that are really lynch mobs that gang up in a cruel way against other individuals. The politicians encourage these groups as a power base in a most divisive manner. The infection is like a virus that is so entrenched with Council, the only solution is to totally scrap the Council and start again. There has been a large turnover of staff, as any decent professional public servant could not tolerate leaving only mediocre and low calibre bureaucrats.	4/14/2015 10:45 AM
233	leichhardt council has the highest residential and business rate charges in the inner west;it has the highest number of staff per head of population;to me that means council is inefficient.	4/14/2015 10:26 AM

234	Reduce costs which means lower rates	4/14/2015 8:06 AM
235	- very small when compared with other Sydney councils e.g. Blacktown, Campbelltown; - likely to be significant reduplication across the administrations of 5 or so councils - it would make it easier for NSW government departments e.g. health, education to work with 1 council rather than 6 councils - hopefully a better result for all communities - not just one or two	4/14/2015 8:01 AM
236	Leichhardt Council does not work at all. Norton Street is a failure as is development and improvements in the Leichhardt and surrounding areas. its time for change.	4/14/2015 12:08 AM
237	too many managers in every local councils.... huge amount of money wasted on salary, bonuses and cars for unnecessary managers and councillors communities will benefit from this merge	4/13/2015 11:29 PM
238	Cheaper Rates less waste on things that are not the councils affair Cleaner streets Better tree policy,more common sense re pruning or removal of dangerous trees.	4/13/2015 11:19 PM
239	A bigger council would be less parochial, less subject to NIMBY attitudes and better reflect the needs of the wider community. Can you please explain qustion 6? If there were a merger, Leichhardt Council would cease to exist. Doesn't it go without saying that the council would lose its identity.	4/13/2015 9:50 PM
240	there may be effective financial effects or political advantages to other levels of government ? but i have not heard a sound explanation as yet.but i do think there are too many levels of government any way. a really radical fundamental reform may to look at to roll of state local level, will a mega council make effective redundancies there.	4/13/2015 9:48 PM
241	Efficiencies of scale would lead to better service, improved services, better street scapes and landscapes and new road servicing and reduced costs ie rates No more Leichhardt badged trucks sitting for hours around parklands full of lazy staff. All vehicles should have Gps trackers	4/13/2015 9:34 PM
242	Small town bias is so yesterday! Should have federal govt and regional administrations without a third stage. Council amalgamations are a start. Ridiculous in a country of 25 million to have such a plethora of politicians. Amalgamation will get rid of a few which is good.	4/13/2015 9:31 PM
243	I could see - benefits from reducing the duplication of services (and staff!) at the benefit of improving the level and quality of services due to economy of scale (when you reduce the overall number of staff, you have money to hire better qualified staff); - benefits from the councils working together re. protection and clean up (!!!!) of the environment, badly necessary in Iron Cove (Leichardt, Canada Bay), Marrickville Council, parts of Balmain, Leichhardt. - reducing competition between councils and better cooperation to everybody's benefit	4/13/2015 8:05 PM
244	Maybe less corruption at the local government level might result but I think the opposite is more likely to happen. Possibly having a large body may be able to take on the NSW Government (particularly its ever poorly performing public service) over such important issues as improving public transport (although the OFarrell/Baird governments have done something), putting a brake on over development of suburban areas, improvements to local amenities such as child care, protection of open spaces. But large councils in other states have not been shining lights in terms of good governance at the local government level.	4/13/2015 7:15 PM
245	A mega council with representation from smaller communities seems to make sense. Not juyst a mega council without representation. Should allow for more integrated planning rather than piecemeal	4/13/2015 6:57 PM
246	With the merger, duplication of operational expenditures can be eliminated.	4/13/2015 6:41 PM
247	Too many mad councils as it is. The rest of the world runs on.mega councils	4/13/2015 6:39 PM
248	I believe that it is time that some Councils are amalgamated to reduce administrative structure and costs, provide ecomomies of scale in relation to service provision and provide consistency and integrity in relation to planning and infrastructure decisions. I understand that such amalgations have been successful elsewhere for example Victoria and New Zealand. It is not clear to me that the Inner West Mega Council proposal is the most appropriate amalgamation of existing Councils considering social, cultural and economic issues, infrastructure issues, income from rates/budget available to address identified strategic issues within the proposed area.	4/13/2015 6:26 PM
249	More efficent use of resources More profeesional and capable councillors	4/13/2015 6:10 PM
250	Cost savings, removal of duplication services.	4/13/2015 5:50 PM
251	small size	4/13/2015 5:44 PM

252	Leichhardt council has not helped me with anything. The current council seems to be more concerned with trees over people. Over the past 10 years I have not seen the council make an effort to rejuvenate the area especially Norton St and its restaurant strip. I feel sorry for the local business owners as there is no vision from current and past council. I can only see that a Mega council will have more vision in all areas to help improve not only business district but also decide the future of Parramatta Rd with the possibility of trams. Currently all the councils disagree with each other so as usual nothing gets achieved.	4/13/2015 5:36 PM
253	1. Greater efficiency and greatly reduced operating costs. 2. More opportunity for residents of Leichhardt to have a say impacting a wider area. 3. Increased quality of councillor representation.	4/13/2015 4:57 PM
254	not supported	4/13/2015 4:52 PM
255	Obvious cost savings and a chance to have sensible non parochial decisions	4/13/2015 4:35 PM
256	Lower levy Better services Local area issues resolution takes account of those impacted	4/13/2015 4:28 PM
257	One council, one set of rules and regulations. More financial support from the State Government. Less about individual council politics and more about looking after the entire municipality. As an inner west resident and small business owner I feel that this council has allowed Leichhardt's identity to be lost. Leichhardt Council is not listening to residents' concerns about brothels operating in the area - both legally and illegally. Legitimate small businesses are not being supported in the area. My hope is that we can unite with the more progressive councils in the surrounding municipalities and take the best of their policies and experiences and apply them to our local area.	4/13/2015 4:23 PM
258	na	4/13/2015 3:38 PM
259	Leichhardt council is all about its internal politics and not taking care of its citizens..... look at Norton st loss of its shine as a place to be - look at how many massage places for sleazy men to go - look at the loss of good quality restaurants - and it is crazy for parking inspectors booking cars when there are plenty of empty carspaces. LEICHHARDT COUNCIL is all about MONEY!!! No different!	4/13/2015 3:36 PM
260	I don't want this	4/13/2015 3:17 PM
261	Leichhardt Council has to be one of the most incompetent Councils in NSW. A Inner West Mega Council can only be a good thing.	4/13/2015 3:13 PM
262	Small councils are often taken over by active special interest groups, e.g. developers or selfish Nimbys - whose self-interested agendas then dominates Council. That has happened to Leichhardt, and as result, housing has become increasingly unaffordable in the area. A larger Council could balance the needs of its local businesses and a larger population far more efficiently and with equity in mind - not the maximisation of property values for people who are already very wealthy. Leichhardt has failed to address the most critical needs of its residents – an affordable place to live. This survey uses loaded terms ("mega council") and its questions are slanted towards achieving one result only. It will get the desired results… But it is self serving, self selective, biased... So why are you bothering? The State Government has its own agenda. It went to the electorate with it in March while Leichhardt Council was campaigning against amalgamation. The issues were widely canvassed and well-known, and it won the popular vote. Those who believe in democracy will accept the people's verdict. So should Leichhardt Council	4/13/2015 3:08 PM
263	1. I think experience shows that streetscape, parks management and other functions do benefit from larger scale administrations - fewer admins but better resourced - shared heavy plant can be used smarter etc 2. Better opportunities for staff development -retained within the area (with all that corporate history) rather than applying in other regions when looking for career advancement 3. More chance of smart, at -scale catchment and precinct management initiatives - water ,energy, carbon, bio-diversity management 4 COMMENTS BELOW about this survey (given here because there is no dedicated question for "other comments": You are introducing some bias through terms such as 'Mega' - its so value laden (Q 8 and 9 - earlier on you use the term 'merged council ' far less value laden. This makes me sceptical about the validity of the survey! Re: Q 6 ..of course Leich Council would lose its identity if merged because the name would disappear. But that has no bearing on Leichhardt the suburb, or the other suburbs - your residents relate far more to their suburb names than the Council as an entity and sadly councillors are kidding themselves if they think that residents are wedded to council as an entity above and beyond their local neighbourhoods. You also needed an "other" tick box in q 13 below	4/13/2015 2:57 PM
264	Much better to have a more co-ordinated planning process over a larger area rather than the existing silo approach where things are only viewed on the basis of Leichhardt alone. There will be significant cost savings ... we are heavily over governed as it is. There will be any number of ways to reduce duplication by removing cost centres. Less single issue dominated people would emerge running/controlling agendas.	4/13/2015 2:27 PM

265	Given the size of the LGA, I cannot believe that we have 12 councillors representing our interests. I do not think this is necessary. There will be efficiencies that can be realised by merging Leichhardt Council with neighbouring Councils. Perhaps not Ashfield and Marrickville, but perhaps City of Sydney	4/13/2015 2:22 PM
266	See comments above. I would only support this if my council rates went down, and services remained the same or improved in my local area. Otherwise there is no ACTUAL benefit of having a mega council (remember the council is there to support the residents of the area - it represents the people so the people have to benefit)	4/13/2015 2:11 PM
267	Leichhardt has a poor reputation in dealing with development applications and developers generally. I believe amalgamation will reduce costs to tax payers and simplify the process.	4/13/2015 2:03 PM
268	N/A	4/13/2015 1:59 PM
269	I believe that a larger council would improve the quality of service delivery. I also think that a larger mega council would be in a position to come up with better integrated plans for a larger area in the Inner West - with regard to development of employment lands, residential development and childcare, among other things. There are too many Councils covering a small geographical area in the Inner West.	4/13/2015 1:59 PM
270	Consistency in waste management, development applications, cleanliness and illegal dumping. Marrickville Council for instance, has an EXCELLENT approach to waste and illegal dumping. Leichhardt Council don't seem to care at all. Canada Bay and Burwood have excellent approaches to clean streets. Other Councils do not. Leichhardt are very inconsistent and disappointing with DA approvals and flexibility for residents. Rates should improve (decrease) under a Mega Council. Wastage of resources should improve under a Mega Council. Doubling-up and WASTE in projects should decrease. I just want fairness and consistency. Councils have their funding, I just don't see it being applied consistently. Sydney Council is huge. Yet, the streets are the cleanest and safest, the residents the happiest and rates are reasonable.	4/13/2015 1:45 PM
271	Reduction of governing bodies would be beneficial and avoid parochial issues.	4/13/2015 1:43 PM
272	Leichhardt should merge with adjoining councils as it will provide opportunity to improve Sydney for the greater good. Current thinking and rhetoric is not helpful to local residents, young people and greater Sydney. Leichhardt prides it self of being a sustainable Council, yet under the recent management, Council has made it difficult for progress to occur in the area, this has had a huge impact on the local community. Norton Street has suffered, residents have suffered and so has Sydney. If Councils truly wants to be sustainable - stop stifling progress and provide the ability for Sydney to grow. Amalgamate and be truly sustainable by being efficient, stop wasting tax payers money, work with the community for what they want - including landowner... not just the personal views of Councillors and the few!! It is because of Councils like Leichhardt that Sydney experiences just excessive Urban Sprawl - Leichhardt is one of a few LGA's that can provide for Sydney's grow in an affordable way because it is situated between Sydney CBD and Parramatta. These two hubs will be where the majority of jobs will be - stop holding the city to ransom and think about the great good.	4/13/2015 1:41 PM
273	My experiences with Council have led me to form the view that they are slightly out of touch with the world as it is today and instead are stuck in the 1980's / 1990's with a real reluctance to embrace change and development. The Council is regarded as possibly the worst in Sydney.	4/13/2015 1:39 PM
274	My experience with Leichhardt Council staff and procedures indicates there is not a high level of professional competence and consistency in the way it operates. I have also picked up a sense that Council staff treat the views of residents in my area (Balmain East) with disdain. This has been demonstrated by its approach to preparing a DA for the Fenwicks building. While I'm not really sure whether the mega council will provide better representation, my hope is that it will take a more professional, even handed and reasonable approach to decision making. The mega council offers the opportunity of a much needed cultural change.	4/13/2015 1:33 PM
275	I would prefer that Leichhardt amagamates with the City of Sydney. I would like to see some form of amalgamation to stop money being wasted. To many studies and excessive time to undertake appropriate projects.	4/13/2015 1:27 PM
276	Better use of council rates money Currently there are too many duplications of services for the total population. Opportunity to create efficiencies Opportunities for each council area to maintain own diverse cultures Auckland is a great model to follow where there is now uniformity of services, building codes/ practices, equatable rating system, equatable representation to cover local/ individual old council areas.	4/13/2015 1:27 PM
277	Leichhardt Council is in its current form is underachieving and a disgrace. Our local community is disintegrating. Most importantly small business is not being supported or encouraged. The horrendous state of Norton Street is a key example, once a flourishing destination point is now an embarrassment.	4/13/2015 1:26 PM
278	no merger	4/13/2015 1:23 PM
279	Less Counselors, combined services, less bureaucracy. Hopefully better " buying power" when tendering.	4/13/2015 1:19 PM

280	Nil	4/13/2015 1:14 PM
281	The cost of maintaining multiple councils. Why we should have to pay for 5 mayors when one would do amazes me!	4/13/2015 1:00 PM
282	Likely to be a more common sense approach to council	4/13/2015 12:59 PM
283	none	4/13/2015 12:57 PM
284	We are completely overgoverned. There have to be massive efficiencies and synergies in merging the councils. There are way too many councils in the status quo. 1 council should lead to better planning and consistent policy between council areas. Most city people don't restrict themselves to 1 council area and move seamlessly between neighbouring suburbs, be good to have consistnet policies in neighbouring suburbs eg bus lanes, DA policies, parking policies etc.	4/13/2015 12:57 PM
285	Abhorrent idea	4/13/2015 12:53 PM
286	Inevitable that will happen so best to participate and ensure strong local community councils and identity are provided for	4/13/2015 12:52 PM
287	My experience with Leichhardt Council over the years has been of one bordering on incompetent	4/13/2015 12:49 PM
288	More efficient administration and more co-operation and less work done in areas near boundaries	4/11/2015 8:54 PM
289	Less replication of back office work Cost savings to the residents More efficiency in processing development proposals More impartiality in Council determinations (not subject to lobby groups) Greater professionalism	4/10/2015 6:30 PM
290	My business is located in leichhardt, Im a local leichhardt mortgage broker and financial planner. My reason for amalgamating is due to the fact Leichhardt council doesnt provide key objectives to growing our community through proper planning and reducing our rates - rather than every year provide a budget that scares the community into paying more. Im disappointed to hear how LMC fights every little issue, involving planning, new businesses opening up, anything to do with "CHANGE", Our local economy is based on the service industry - that includes all small business, I and other peers in the business community cant keep trying to find work outside our locality, its rediculous having clients come to my office from strathfield or ryde, I do it though cause im proud of my area and the quality of the coffee!.. ha. But we do need growth in population to provide customers for the small businesses. We have passionate business owners who provide amazing services and products, but have done it tough and still doing it tough - it seems every other council is growing and we are sitting still. We need growth and forward thinking, stop waiting for the private sector to come forward cause they will be limited and single minded on profit. Put together a master planned vision that incorporates change and is solution based, a planned vision that may involve changing the zoning to the existing houses or shops in and around key areas, the owners will like being involved and having certanty on planning.	4/10/2015 1:26 AM
291	I lived through council amalgamations in Qld. The scare campaigns here in Sydney are over the top. The benefits are great - efficiencies, cost savings, better planning and better service delivery.	4/7/2015 10:55 PM
292	Leichhardt Council is the worst council area in sydney	4/7/2015 2:38 PM
293	This is an absolute joke of a questionnaire. Council has clearly made a decision to oppose amalgamations so why bother asking your community what we think now? The shared modeling you undertook shows a net benefit of nearly $15million per year. How can you argue that an amalgamated council doesn't have benefits to consider? Or that it doesn't meet the FFF criteria. Our community's sense of identity is not at risk through amalgamation. If anything a larger council area could facilitate the need to strengthen it through the resources for more place management. I am most concerned about having access to councillors, diversity of representation and a council that listens to its community. The way our elected councillors have already made a decision on the future of local government for Leichhardt, before consulting their community, shows a blatant disregard for their community. Why should I be concerned about having my voice heard in a super council if my current council don't care to listen now?	4/4/2015 12:55 PM
294	reduced rates, less Councillors	4/4/2015 12:48 AM
295	Cost savings Remove inefficiences Stop standing in the way of this merger.	4/3/2015 6:29 AM
296	I would prefer Leichhardt Council amalgamate with City of Sydney and Marrickville councils.	4/2/2015 3:15 PM
297	Merging and lowering unit overheads is a sensible suggestion. Councils are financially unviable and rely on rate increases instead of efficiency improvements. Scale will ensure more capable management skills. I also think it is unfortunate that the council has formed a view without consulting residents and is wasting money campaigning against the proposed changes with out a mandate.	4/1/2015 3:37 PM

298	Not at all.	4/1/2015 12:50 AM
299	Less running costs Less corruption Less politics More community wide planning	3/31/2015 11:45 AM
300	Save money.	3/30/2015 3:36 PM
301	dont	3/30/2015 10:28 AM
302	Too many levels of government and too much vested interest. Tired of council representatives with single issue platforms that are not relevant to local politics and local issues. Fix your survey, can not choose other below	3/29/2015 8:56 PM
303	I had a business in leichhardt and i didnt feel council cared about business like other councils do. Leichhardt has already lost its identity. I grew up in leichhardt and now moved out as it is an aged suburb. I am shocked to see how council has run it down, leichhardt is no longer 'little italy' no Business incentives have been offered to attract new business to leichhardt, there are just a growing number of vacant shops, high parking metre costs and cafes are forced to pay a hefty fee just to keep a few tables outside; if reviving leichhardt is the plan offer an incentive for business to grow and people to come down. Leichhardt council doesn't seem capable of running the ' town' so i think merging will fix this issue.	3/29/2015 8:47 PM
304	Amalgamation of the most appropriate services and development applications that consider a wider area of inner west needs and services	3/27/2015 7:02 PM
305	Any council would be more progressive than the existing councip	3/26/2015 6:25 PM
306	Larger councils give councils a larger revenue base which we give them greater capacity to invest in infrastructure; attract decent staff and actually pick up my garbage which Leichhardt council in its current for consistently fails to do!	3/26/2015 5:43 PM
307	As stated above, having a larger council would mean a broader representation of views in Council as well as a greater number and expert staff. Imagine having the skills, vision and diversity of staff and councillors like the City of Sydney and Parramatta and what that could potentially do to our larger more effective council - we could develop a strong vision for all our special places and identify opportunities for economic growth areas as well as areas for renewal and new housing. We could do this because we would have in Council staff with those skills that can educate our locally elected members and do great things. Greater size to me represents more opportunities to respond to the future needs of our communities and making our communities strong and diverse.	3/25/2015 3:56 PM
308	In the long run it will be cost effective e.g. you will only have to pay the wage of one GM rather than five.	3/25/2015 1:42 PM
309	It was be better for strategic planning and would save money through streamlining and efficency, with money saved able to make the inner west a better place for residents.	3/25/2015 10:36 AM
310	A careful, thorough and detailed investigation has been undertaken in preparation of the Fit for the Future Report. This report builds upon earlier substantive work (eg Sproats 1991), and the time to move forward is now well overdue. I have yet to read the Morrison Low response but will do so if it is publicly accessible. I note, however, that this consultancy firm lacks the high level expertise characterising the Fit for the Future team. Services to Leichhardt Council ratepayers and residents are considerably less than optimal and doing any business with Council is an increasing nightmare of bureaucracy and red tape. Funds continue to be wasted and expended on frivolous 'services' appealing to small yet vocal minority groups whilst basic services such as pavement repair are wanting. Massive savings would be achieved through the elimination of duplication, in any 'mega council' of costly senior bureaucrats who fail to sufficient value add to the lives of ratepayers and residents. The benefits of streamlining and removing duplication are inarguable. Council's current scare campaign in response to Fit for the Future is a disgrace. A balanced view and non self interested response is needed. I am extremely disappointed, and shall certainly take other opportunities to express my views. Elizabeth Avent	3/24/2015 3:27 PM
311	Reduced costs, in management of council and elections. More of a say in government through stronger representation of our part of Sydney. Less fractionalisation of our community, through creating links with our neighbours.	3/24/2015 11:33 AM
312	There is an excess of governance in Councils. Streamlining with amalgamation would result in better services.	3/19/2015 4:18 PM
313	only Marrickville not the other suburbs - they are not candidates for Inner West.	3/18/2015 9:59 PM
314	NA	3/17/2015 11:15 AM
315	NO. Do not merge!	3/16/2015 11:26 PM
316	I don't.	3/16/2015 10:35 PM
317	More funding for the area. And more support for our areas.	3/15/2015 8:05 PM

318	Ultimately, there will be a merger, because this is the trend throughout Australia. We therefore should seek the best deal possible and that is achieved by being involved in the discussion, not by just opposing the proposition. Financial benefits should result (though that is a minor issue. Many of the issues relevant to Leichhardt are also relevant to other inner-west councils and a merger should produce a more powerful voice.	3/12/2015 12:04 PM
319	Consistency of planning Economies of scale	3/11/2015 4:22 PM
320	See above.	3/9/2015 9:51 PM
321	Cost savings, better management & developing the area.	3/9/2015 9:21 PM
322	- Sharing of resources - Coordination ease	3/9/2015 3:37 PM
323	Leichhardt Council has become unresponsive to the needs and interests of its citizens. It has off-shored planing decisions to a group of people who have little knowledge or understanding of the area. It has demonstrated no commitment to the area's heritage. Most elected representatives rarely respond to ratepayers' requests for information or assistance. The mega council may not be any better, but I cannot defend a Council with such a poor performance.	3/9/2015 12:01 PM
324	Financial savings, wider area for planning purposes, fewer politicians,	3/9/2015 10:18 AM
325	I do not want this to happen, mainly because of the suburbs we would be merging with. If we were merging with Sydney City Council I would be happy with this.	3/9/2015 8:37 AM
326	More consistency. Savings in amalgating services eg garbage. Road maintenance. Aministrative services. Librariesc etc....only one mayor.	3/8/2015 7:52 PM
327	Leichhardt Council is difficult to deal with, sloowww to respond to it's citizens and things (i.e. DA process) seems to be a lot more efficient and less time consuming within other council areas. A Mega Council would hopefully improve things for the community.	3/8/2015 11:00 AM
328	Leichhardt Council is hopelessly ineffective - it wastes inordinate amounts of time and money on issues that are not relevant to it, it is excessively political, DA processes have become ridiculous, it has been unable to articulate a vision for the region and it appears to still be weighed down by debt. The streets are falling apart, Balmain shopping precinct is dying, Leichhardt is dead on its feet. Petty minded officers reduce our utility on a daily basis. It is time Leichhardt Council was consigned to the dustbin of history.	3/8/2015 9:32 AM
329	At present the Council is not performing in its basic tasks; it is over staffed and has the highest rates both residential and business in the inner west! What's to like	3/8/2015 8:20 AM
330	Better resources and more funds for a wider area - Council should merge with underperforming Canterbury Council	3/7/2015 2:57 PM
331	I don't want to see a merger!	3/7/2015 11:55 AM
332	see above	3/7/2015 11:15 AM
333	1. It will streamline the operations of State govt by reducing the number of councils it has to deal with. 2. It will improve the quality of professionals working within the council. 3. Up until recently I lived for many years in Queensland's Brisbane City Council and found the quality of service to be excellent, and I did not feel a lack of "local" representation in this urban environment. I do concede, however, that amalgamation did not work for the Sushine Coast of Queensland, but that was for reasons that I do not believe are relevant in Sydney's Inner West.	3/7/2015 10:14 AM
334	My dealings with Leichhardt Council with regard to DA's and at Precint meetings leaves me very underwhelmed at their knowledge and competence.	3/7/2015 1:27 AM
335	Leichhardt council have a reputation for ignoring what people want. They are self serving and not representative of the people.	3/6/2015 10:23 PM
336	No	3/6/2015 8:11 PM
337	NABalmain	3/6/2015 7:19 PM
338	Leichhardt council lacks the size to be efficient and having attended council meetings is more interested in petty politics than a true focus on residents	3/6/2015 6:59 PM
339	I don't == I cannot see the benefit of removing the state or quality of being a separate entity	3/6/2015 6:55 PM
340	Do not support this at all	3/6/2015 6:21 PM

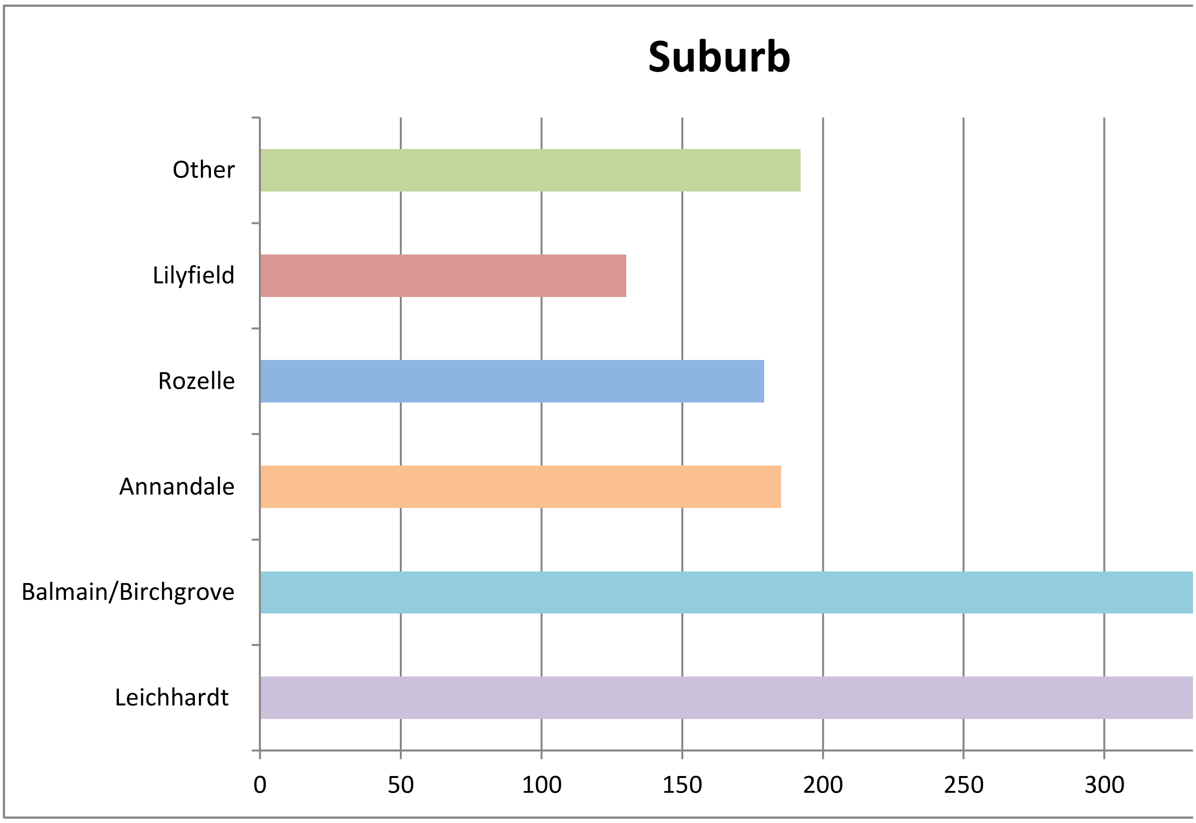
341	I believe the differences between these areas are not great and that a larger council can be more efficient. I lived in Brisbane for many years, it had one large Council, and whist there were issues overally it did seem to function reasonably well. The big question is how to ensure consideration is given to representation of the existing areas.	3/6/2015 4:45 PM
342	Cut out the many levels of management in too many councils. It is more efficient to combine the councils and get rid of inefficiencies that currently exist. It will be more efficient to have a larger council & it will drive efficiencies if managed properly.	3/6/2015 4:21 PM
343	See above. I would prefer the Balmain peninsula be amalgamated with Sydney because of the closeness to the city and leave the western side of Victoria road with Burwood.	3/6/2015 3:58 PM
344	Leichhardt council operates very poorly - we would love to see it merged. It may speed up the DA process and create a more streamline service and reduce costs. The mega council in Auckland City is working very well!!	3/6/2015 3:39 PM
345	Economies of scale for providing services. Reduce duplication of local council based services.	3/6/2015 3:25 PM
346	My experience with staff of Leichhardt Council has not been favourable. I and other residents of Balmain East feel that our concerns about local issues are not taken seriously or are totally ignored. The current DA for the Bells foreshore is a case in point. While there may be other downsides to a mega council, I am hopeful that a new administration will take a more even handed and professional attitude towards Balmain East residents.	3/6/2015 3:19 PM
347	not one reason	3/6/2015 3:17 PM
348	n/a	3/6/2015 3:08 PM
349	We have lived and owned property in the Leichhardt Council area over the last thirty years. At NO TIME in that period have we ever been anything than underwhelmed by the Council's performance. Emphasis on refugees, aboriginals and gays (all very important) are not Council's immediate responsibility other than integrating them into the community rather than differentiating. The left wing green/pink bias is beyond blatant. Merging Councils may give a better balance and heaven knows, an increased amenity. I often walk along Hawthorn Canal - the two sides could not be more different. The amenity and maintenance on the Haberfield side (Ashfield Council) puts Leichhardt to shame eg mown lawns, tennis courts, TWO *toilet blocks. Speaking of the *latter, the failure to include same in the 'upgrade' of Bridgewater Park shows a distinct disregard or understanding of the needs of families who may use it. Loss of identity for Leichhardt?? No such thing ... Balmain lost it's identity when it was forced to amalgamate with Leichhardt and has been regarded as nothing but a milch cow since ...	3/6/2015 2:38 PM
350	Economies of scale to be achieved by having a bureaucracy spread over a greater number of rate payers.	3/6/2015 2:33 PM
351	City of Sydney, a large council, is able to provide excellent services for its residents and draw on its resources to get more involved in local infrastructure such as cycle paths A larger amalgamated council would have more influence with state planning matters such as westconnex.	3/6/2015 2:28 PM
352	Note, I'll be voting for Baird at the election, so not tied to any particular party, just acknowledge were people are genuine in there words and actions.... Apart from the local Labour team, the greens , liberals and especially J. Stamolis have actively worked against additional playing fields for local kids Planning system operated by Leichhardt Council does not utilise common sense and hides behinds reports that are unwarranted which is generally proven if they go to L+E Court. Also certain 'favoured' areas get all the attention. Nimbyism is favoured by Leichhardt Council it would appear.	3/6/2015 2:27 PM
353	I never wanted to belong to Leichhardt, it's always been a negative thing for me and my neighbours. Balmain East is as much "Inner West" as Pyrmont is. I believe we should really be part of Sydney, not Leichhardt. BUT... if we cannot escape our geographical labelling, then now, at least, we have a chance to get rid of our local government who clearly do not represent Balmain East home owners, having been voted in by the green, left-leaning masses in other suburbs. This is why I support the abolishment of Leichhardt Council, and welcome becoming part of something bigger, more diverse, more pro-business and generally, smarter. This is just hopeful wishing, I know. But common sense tells me the bigger the constituency the less harm local anti-progress activists can do in a more global scale.	3/6/2015 2:27 PM
354	Economy of scale, a wider cross section of demographics and socio-econic groups, less dominance by small minded, small thinking petty politicians who posture around the limited and declining area of Leichhardt, ie big fish in a tiny and decaying small pond. More people to put in more thoughts, ideas; amalgamation will bring about so much more forward thinking about things that really matter rather than petty local non-issues (ie Ocean ship pollution, so called and claimed) Current structure encourages small thinking and an abnormal amount of time and/or resources wasted on things over which Leichhardt has no influence.	3/6/2015 2:23 PM
355	I think the Inner West Mega Council will be more cost effective. Also, i have found Leichhardt council to be overly buraucratic and fairly incompetent. A more professional body is required.	3/6/2015 2:15 PM

356	Hopefully get rid of the Greens	3/6/2015 2:09 PM
357	NONE--do not want and won't accept This should be made an election issue too.	3/6/2015 2:09 PM
358	Far too many competing councils. We are way overgoverned. Start with merging the councils and then abolish state governments	3/6/2015 2:04 PM
359	Having worked in a number of NSW Govt contracts in Health, Commerces and IT and also having a background in accounting I understand the efficiencies of a Shared Services business model. I have also lived in London and New York who have appox. 8 million people living under a "City of ..." structure and areas within the those cities have not lost there individual identity. I dont see how rate payers can fincancially support 40 local councils in the Sydney basin and approx 150 across the state. Merges have to happen and cost savings need to be made.	3/6/2015 1:59 PM
360	The political representatives of Leichhardt Council (Councillors) are very ineffective, small minded and aggressive and non-progressive. It has such a poor reputation. The Council staff and residents deserve a better quality of decision maker. Larger Council would potential mean paid Councillor positions which could attract a better quality of candidate. Larger Councils can afford to invest money in large projects, for example lobby and part fund bigger transport projects to happen like in City of Sydney or Gold Coast Council on light rail. Larger Councils will result in attracting better staff (through improved pay rates) and for example more specialised fields of urban design and heritage which can support improved development and open space outcomes.	3/6/2015 1:58 PM
361	NA	3/6/2015 1:57 PM
362	Australians have way too much government, and with local councils taking on Foreign affairs its time the rate payer receives some sanity. Councils are to keep our streets clean fix potholes not to boycott Israel or in Leichhardts case support Western Sudanese Islamic rebels who even the UN does not recognise. Bring on the Amalgamations	3/6/2015 1:53 PM
363	Current boundaries would suit Nineteenth century needs. Several small councils causes duplication of services, and waste. At the moment there are simple matters left unfixed for extended periods, such as pot holes in roads and paths dangerously uneven. It would be reasonable to expect a larger council to be run on more commercial and professional terms, with benefits to rate payers. Communication and management technology of the 21st century can easily handle 342,000 people.	3/6/2015 1:49 PM
364	Leichhardt council is a law unto itself. Thousands of dollars of cost just to cut a tree down that's about to fall on your house. Half of Parramatta Rd is being renewed, the other half belonging to Leichhardt is in ruins. Road closures that suit some locals but stuff the rest of us up. It would be great to get some consistency in Sydney. Businesses being forced to close down or move because of noise yet the businesses have been there for years even before these people were even born.	3/6/2015 1:47 PM
365	Leichhardt Council has historically been much more interested in serving the political and financial interests of councillors and staff, and their allies, than its community. The disappearance of Leichhardt Council from the local government map would be a benefit to all ratepayers and citizens (other than aforesaid councillors, staff and allies).	3/6/2015 1:44 PM
366	I would be very supportive of merging with the City not West Mega	3/6/2015 1:43 PM

Q12 Which suburb do you live in?

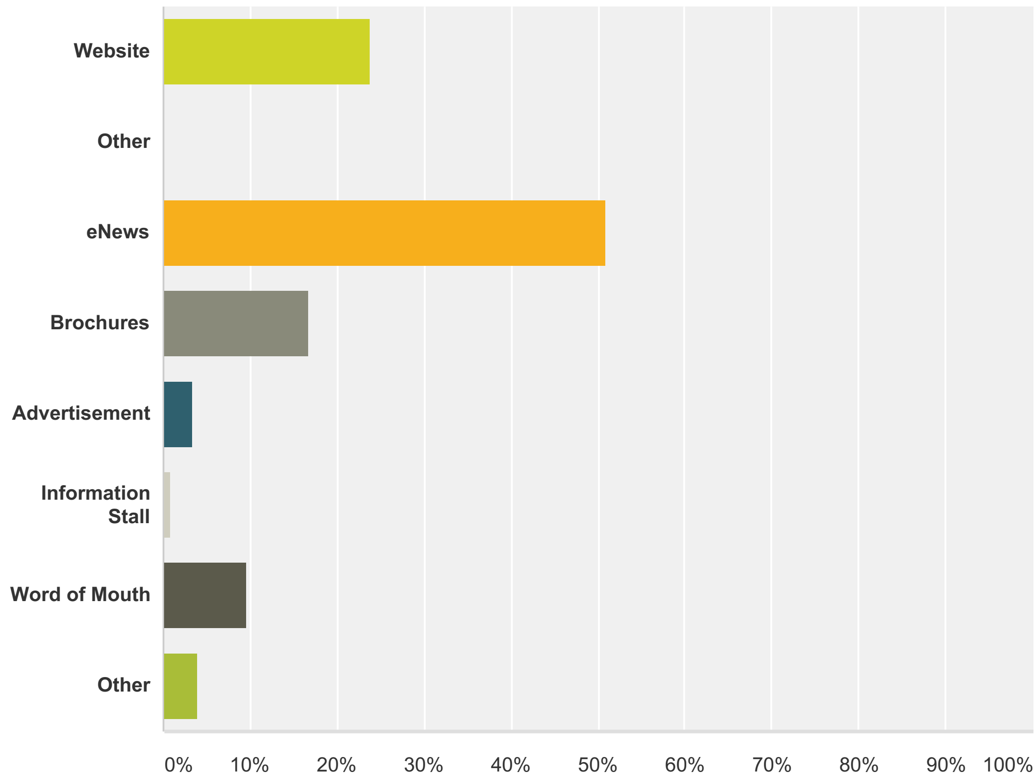
Answered: 1,378 Skipped: 0

Suburb	Count
Leichhardt	337
Balmain/Birchgrove	349
Annandale	187
Rozelle	180
Lilyfield	133
Other	192



Q13 How did you hear about this survey?

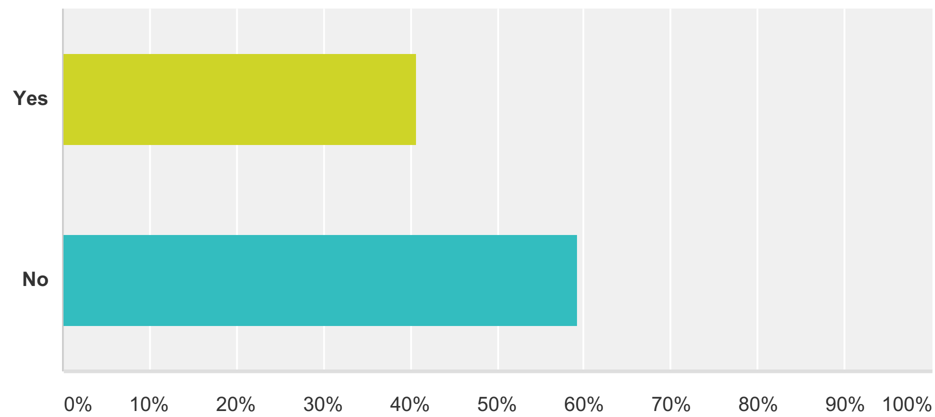
Answered: 1,378 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Website	**23.73%**	327
Other	**0.00%**	0
eNews	**50.94%**	702
Brochures	**16.62%**	229
Advertisement	**3.41%**	47
Information Stall	**0.80%**	11
Word of Mouth	**9.58%**	132
Other	**4.06%**	56
Total Respondents: 1,378		

Q14 Would you like to receive Council's eNews?

Answered: 1,378   Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	**40.71%**	561
No	**59.29%**	817
Total		**1,378**