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Sent: Friday, 31 July 2015 10:35 AM
To: Local Government Mailbox
Subject: Fit for the Future Proposal

There is a shining beacon of propriety in Australian politics and that is the conduct of the City of Sydney Council. Not beholden to property developers, "hospitality" providers, road builders or other self interested parties who seek to buy influence with politicians, this Council is the gold standard of what people actually want from elected officials. They want decisions made in the community interest, decisions that improve the amenity of our neighbourhoods not destroy them.

Why is Redfern, for instance, now attracting business investment and witnessing a revitalisation of a long-derided area. Having lived in the suburb for 24 years I can directly trace it to the council's decision to upgrade Redfern St and Redfern Oval. This has led to businesses investing in the environs to such an extent that even Regent St. long a derelict row of empty buildings, is now a lively streetscape that Paddington residents must envy.

Would this happen under a mega-council? Would the interests of local residents be front and centre of councillors ruling a territory from Maroubra to Pyrmont? While this admirable development of Sydney City's suburbs has occurred under an Independent administration, surely even a major political party would find ruling such a large population unwieldy.

We know what's going on here. This move to amalgamate councils is a direct challenge to successful independent government by political interests that are frustrated by their inability to reward their moneyed supporters. It is a challenge to real democracy in action. It will be a black day in Australia's political history if this blatant attempt to destroy true representative government for the people not commercial interests is successful.

I recommend that the City of Sydney not be amalgamated with other councils.

Regards,