

From: Alexa Wyatt [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 2 July 2015 1:34 PM
To: Local Government Mailbox
Subject: Fit for the Future Submission

Dear IPART

I am a long term resident and rate payer in Redfern, part of the Sydney City Council region (and for part of over the 25 years I have lived here and in Surry Hills, belonged to the South Sydney City Council before it was amalgamated into Sydney City Council). I wish to strongly object to any further amalgamations of my local council area. There was considerable concern amongst South Sydney residents at the time about the new council adequately understanding and providing for the particular needs of this area and its residents, and Sydney City Council has worked hard to incorporate us into the commendable "City of Villages" vision, and now serves all those village areas extremely well.

Sydney City Council's "Fit for the Future" submission demonstrates more than adequately precisely how well run this council is, how well it serves its residents now and will continue to do so without problem into the future. The region Sydney City Council takes in is the most densely populated area in Australia, and continues to grow with massive urban development programmes such as Green Square which will bring even more residents into the area in the future. To propose a "super" council incorporating other existing councils, and thus be responsible for hundreds of thousands more rate payers, is a ludicrous proposal. There is simply no way a council of this scale could service, understand or provide the individual services and appreciation of the particular needs and experiences of residents in so many different areas. The definition and purpose of local government entities is just that, *local*. To suggest that a super council incorporating numerous existing councils could still provide *local* government services is a nonsense, as its sheer size means it cannot possibly be local or grassroots in its form or delivery of services. The size of the bureaucracy required to deliver the same level of individual service and understanding the current council provides would make it impossibly large and unwieldy.

The fact that IPART's findings regarding council amalgamations will not be made public is equally abhorrent, making this review non-independent, non-transparent, and most galling of all, non-democratic.

I reiterate my objection to the entire process, and to any amalgamation of the Sydney of City Council.

Yours sincerely

Alexa Wyatt