

Author name: Anonymous

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Submission: Dear IPART,

I strongly disagree with the amalgamation of City of Sydney (COS) with other councils, not only as COS is financially secure (so there is not a need) and does a very good job for the area (in my opinion), but the proposed areas which COS is proposed to amalgamate with are very different in composition and thus their needs from the council would be vastly different to the needs of those in the COS. The COS has a higher concentration of high density living and commercial when compared to areas such as Waverley, Randwick, Botany & much of Woollahra, so these different areas would likely have greatly differing needs and requirements, making it much more difficult for an amalgamated council to best deal with the needs of these different areas effectively, or fairly. Additionally local councils are meant to deal with local issues, but as these councils get bigger there is the risk that they become less effective with dealing with local issues because there are so many more locals (residents & business) to deal with. And the more diverse the individuals and business are the worse this is (as per my point above concerning my objection to the amalgamation of such differing areas). This system of making super (large) councils also risks creating a system which benefits large businesses or organisations which have the resources to be able to better interact with councils giving them much greater influence with the council than individuals or small business. We see this at State and Federal level, where individuals have very little influence unless they are able to form large community groups and band together to get media attention, and as a result political attention and interaction, while business or larger organisation have the resources and thus know-how to be able to deal directly with these levels of government silently through 'official' forms of dealing with government.

To keep local councils 'local' and to ensure that COS is able to continue to service the COS area effectively, while being financially secure, please allow it to remain as it is and reject the proposal to have it amalgamated.

kind regards,

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