

Author name: Anonymous

Date of submission: Sunday, July 19, 2015

Submission: I totally support Leichhardt Council in opposing amalgamation. I attend some committee meetings in areas of particular interest to me and where I can make particular contributions through levels of knowledge that is over and above most of the other council and committee members.

It is obvious that the major point of the amalgamations is to firstly override the power of the Council to raise objections to parts of State Government legislation that they are not in agreement with. Amalgamations of various Councils would make it much easier for State Government to ride rough shod over the current council areas and the general public throughout all current council areas. An example of where the Government wants as little Council and individual community input as possible is the current WestConnex. I'm sure that the same will apply to the Bay's Precinct Urban Growth Development. The Government will do all it can to nullify the chances for the Councils to represent their residents and make any objections. It is much easier to manipulate and impose the government's desire when agreement involves only a couple of councils. These are classic examples of why the Government wants amalgamations; to take away Council power over their areas. Secondly large councils definitely mean far less community input and involvement. Large sprawling committees nullify the opportunity for residents to be involved in decisions and of having their views considered. I'm sure that in these proposed enlarged councils many committees currently attended by residents will be closed to them. I have already seen the beginning of this process taking place with the Government's recent policy of the streamlining of Council's committee structures to conform to a 'one size fits all' structure.

With these sorts of Amalgamations Proposals for changes of all sorts become nothing more than bureaucratic box ticking exercises and the community shut out from any meaningful say in the conduct of their affairs. It is more power to the argument that Politicians are the enemies of the people not their representatives. So I strongly object to the Policy for Amalgamation of Councils.