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Submission: I am submitting my objection to the proposed creation of a mega-council for the City of Sydney. I have lived in Sydney for over 50 years and have experienced the negative impacts of council amalgamations, this includes lack of financial sustainability, reduction of existing services and reduction of representation for my community.

Recent research found that councils with small populations “consistently outperformed” the larger Brisbane City Council with which they were compared. Comparisons included “the key areas of financial flexibility, liquidity, and debt-serving ability”*.

With regard to whether the City of Sydney Council is “Fit for the Future” that can be answered by the following. City of Sydney Council:

- Has created sustainable buildings and public spaces to encourage innovation, inspiration and pride, and have delivered a major capital works program worth more than a billion dollars.
- Is the only local government area in NSW to meet and exceed the housing and jobs targets set by the NSW State Government.
- Has 23 community venues across the City and provides over one thousand childcare places. Another six new City-built childcare centres are scheduled to be developed by 2016 and the Council is implementing strategies to meet future needs.
- Has built or upgraded a number of aquatic centres within its council boundaries and created and upgraded 105 parks.
- Has installed, upgraded or implemented new infrastructure and digital apps to facilitate movement by pedestrians within the City.
- Improved infrastructure to facilitate thriving small businesses
- Developed a policy to make sure the City of Sydney Council area is a leading artistic and cultural hub. Invested millions of dollars in the entertainment and cultural life of the city.
- PricewaterhouseCoopers say that City of Sydney Council is a “benchmark against which other councils could be compared” and the NSW Government’s own Treasury Corporation (T-Corp) rates City of Sydney’s finances as “strong” with a “positive outlook” – the only NSW council to receive this rating**

On those grounds I object to current City of Sydney Council being amalgamated with other councils that border it. I ask you to reject the amalgamation.

Ref:

*Quoting Professor Brian Dollery, of the University of New England, and others published in the Institute of Public Administration's journal in January Anne Davies's article “Council amalgamations: the good, the bad and the ugly” in the Sydney Morning Herald 27th June 2015

** Information from City of Sydney website <http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/council/news-and-updates/act-now>