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Submission: I support Leichhardt Council's submission to remain a standalone council.

Leichhardt Council have demonstrated financial sustainability and can meet the Fit for the Future criteria.

I disagree with the IPART assertion that a bigger population council is more "efficient."

I am concerned that the solutions developed over long periods to protect and enhance traditional urban neighbourhoods by local councils would be victim to a "one size fits all" management mantra across a mega council. One example: In my professional field as an urban designer of new residential neighbourhoods, I am aware of the profound effects garbage collection has on urban form, parking and street character. These effects will seem astonishing to lay people, but it is vital for the beloved historic and highly valuable walkable neighbourhoods to retain the fleet of manned garbage trucks that inner Councils use and understand as necessary. I fear that there would be enormous pressure in a mega council for a single fleet of automated bin pantechicons as used by the other suburban councils.

The second example is planning and development standards. Local councils have invested greatly in tailored Local Environmental and Development Control Plans to protect and enhance their neighbourhoods. The IPART proposal for these new mega councils has not made explicit the vast task or implications of creating new, standardised planning and development controls.