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Submission: Dear Mr Baird,

As a resident of Holroyd council area that stands to make a net loss in the medium term from the merger, I nevertheless believe that the NSW government should view the proposal from a wider perspective, being the efficient operation of governments at all levels.

Your challenge is to decide whether Australia is over-governed. If you hold that it is, then government at one of the three levels needs to be curtailed, merged or disbanded. In this case it may be reasonable to view local government mergers as an option to disbanding them altogether or to create efficiencies by curtailing or disbanding state governments.

I encourage the NSW government to take an objective stand on this issue.

Subject to whether a reduction in government is in the greater public good, I submit that all local councils should eventually be disbanded and absorbed into the functions of state government. As a step in this direction I submit that a local council merger on efficiency grounds is desirable.

Accordingly, I further submit that the NSW government needs to carefully consider whether a reduction in government is for the greater public good. Factors that impinge on this may include

- reduction in rates
- timely public works
- prevention of surveillance activities illegal made by the commonwealth government
- democratic elections
- access by members of the public to meet with government officials