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Submission: I am 64 years old and have lived and worked in many LGAs - most of which ended up in ICAC or having administrators brought in, including Liverpool Council about whom the local joke is that they "burnt their building down to escape prosecution".

I have read all documentation which led up to the NSW Government choosing to force amalgamations - including Destination 2036 and the TCORP papers in which FCC ranked 9th in terms of financial viability. I wonder why the other recommendations from IPART have been ignored. I have also spent significant time researching costings/benefits of forced amalgamations, here and overseas, and am at a loss as to understand how a government can persist in such an expensive and seemingly non-beneficial process. I also understand that the promised \$1billion 'support package' is more about \$635m expected savings (by when?) and resent the punitive withholding of funds from Councils who do not amalgamate.

Living and working in Fairfield City I know certain things: FCC rates are significantly lower than those of Liverpool; FCC spends \$100 per capita on residents as opposed to Liverpool who spend only \$20 per capita - with the rest going on administration. Despite being one of the poorest councils in NSW, FCC is the best in terms of honouring the local culture and their commitment to their constituents. My fear is that if FCC is forced to amalgamate, rates will increase, service will suffer and funds will be drained to build the "next Barangaroo" on the Georges River.

FCC LGA is the best I have ever lived in. I feel safe, love the diversity of the community and the level of service council provides. I have never felt this way in any other LGA, least of all Liverpool which does not believe in local employment and outsources services which should be delivered by them. They do not support their local population, and focus on being the next best thing. In view of their track record over the past 30 years, I would not hold my breath.