

# **SUBMISSION TO IPART IN RESPONSE TO STRATHFIELD COUNCIL'S FIT FOR THE FUTURE PROPOSAL**

Name: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

I am taking this opportunity to point out the following concerns that I have with amalgamation and, in particular, how it affects me as a resident of Strathfield:-

- Why are the residents of Strathfield forced to amalgamate when our Council is debt free? This is a key indicator to me that we are “Fit for the Future”.
- Why are the residents of Strathfield potentially forced to be accountable for Burwood’s debt of 6.7m, Ashfield’s debt of 9.4 m, Leichhardt’s debt 11.4 m and Marrickville’s debt of 15.2 m – totaling 42 million?
- Why are the residents of Strathfield potentially forced to be liable for an infrastructure backlog of 160 M from Burwood, Ashfield 24.7 M, Canada Bay 18.8 M, Leichhardt 11.4M, and Marrickville 15.2 million, total \$244,100,000.?
- How can a garden suburb, which is the “Oasis of the West” operate in a mega council when their representation is reduced to 1 person from 7?
- How can uniform planning laws be applied to Marrickville and then to Strathfield? We are the oldest established residential suburb in Sydney.
- How can the residents of Strathfield argue against a rate increase when the suburb’s unique land size will

automatically create an argument with, say Marrickville, that they shouldn't be paying more rates when they inhabit more space and Strathfield has higher property prices.

- Why would a councillor from Marrickville be concerned with whether an organisation in Strathfield is complying with its conditions of consent? What will our 1 representative have to agree to, to be able to ensure that the residents of Strathfield receive infrastructure, initiate legal proceedings, and enforce compliance of Development Applications or Land & Environment Court Judgments.
- In this respect, how can IPART even assess the impact of a “mega Mayor” – how does this affect our State Member?
- Why is the argument of the shortage of engineers even being considered as a reason to amalgamate when all it will create is an overworked Engineer in a mega council? A shortage is a shortage. This seriously cannot be considered as a justification for amalgamation.

In conclusion, I am very concerned for the future of my suburb and my basic democratic right to be locally represented. How dare you take this away under the pretext of “Fit for the Future”. IPART has only assessed the financial side and has made it impossible to argue against the criteria set for “Fit for the Future” – the dice is loaded. Unfortunately for the residents of Strathfield, the long term impact of amalgamation has not been analysed. The ramifications of deals and compromises that will need to be made between the councillors so as to enable compliance of conditions of use in my unique suburb, will lead to a haphazard and compromised form of local Government.