

**Sent:** Monday, 6 July 2015 2:01 PM

**To:** Local Government Mailbox

**Subject:** Objection to 'fit for the future' council amalgamation

I write to you to strongly oppose the plans for a council amalgamation proposed within the "fit for the future" submission. I hope as a young, tax paying, law abiding member of this city my request is heard and considered by you. I want to believe that I still live in a country where our leaders make informed choices based on the views of the people. I want to believe that the voice of the community still resonates through council halls and local government. Please take the time to consider my opinions. I write of the lack of independence local councils will have, the belief that we will be misrepresented amongst a greater council which will need to accommodate for extremely diverse, varying needs, and the fear that we are losing the great ideals of democracy this country was founded upon.

My area of Redfern has a good local council whose power is already somewhat diminished, with this amalgamation I can't see how the small requests for local gardens through to the larger oppositions of over urbanisation and building will be heard. I fear that this lack of independence will eventuate in extra added urbanisation, and also allow for more corruption within council.

I also have a lack of belief that amalgamated councils will make decisions based on the good of local communities. I am a resident of Redfern where our suburb has a huge wealth divide, in this amalgamation where there are richer councils of Waverly and Woollahra, how can my small community in Redfern be assured we will have the same personalised understanding of our local area and needs which differ so much from that of other councils within the amalgamation? I fear for the reduced connection I will feel with my local council. I am concerned that the local people with vested interests will not receive personalised response or understanding, and be further lumped into wider decisions made upon median needs.

I also feel that the expanse of the amalgamation will mean that it will be too large an electorate for smaller independent parties to afford to be able to properly campaign thus not allowing wholly for the democratic intention of our constitution.

In summation, I see many risks from this forced amalgamation, and not enough benefits for smaller communities. And I ask that you consider these opinions prior to reviewing this proposal further.

Please also have this submission remain anonymous.