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Submission: I submit that the City of Sydney Council has and continues to engage with its local community. This is crucial in maintaining a cohesive and engaged society, while at the same time providing for growth of business and tourism in greater Sydney. Sydney needs to compete on the world stage. If a forced amalgamation occurs, a lot of the focus will be lost as has happened in the previous amalgamation of City of Sydney with South Sydney and reduction of costs and better management are not guaranteed. The Council is fit for future with its record of managing income and responsible expenditure on many major initiatives, including providing infrastructure for new development sites (Sydney's population is rapidly increasing and new housing is vital), providing separated cycleways for safety of cyclists (if Europe and other developed countries can do it, so can we), contributing to extensions of light rail, new and innovative community projects including building and/or upgrading libraries, pools, parks and playgrounds and public space. We have a beautiful city and we need to focus on maintaining our standing in the world. City of Sydney Council is progressive, has a proven track record of accountability and should not be amalgamated with surrounding Councils.