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Submission: From: B&DStevenson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 31 July 2015 4:17 PM
To: Local Government Mailbox
Subject: Rejection of Amalgamation for City of Sydney
Importance: High

[REDACTED]
30/7/15

Dear IPART People,

I am emailing to voice my strong opposition to the proposed amalgamation of the City of Sydney within a “mega council” compromising Botany Bay, Randwick, Sydney Waverley and Woollahra.

This latest proposal unfortunately carries on the long tradition of both Labor and Coalition Governments’ interfering with the City of Sydney’s boundaries to further their own political power, at the expense of the well being of residents and ratepayers in this LGA. IPART should not facilitate passage of such political shenanigans.

As a resident of the city for more than a decade, I know I can confidently assert that the current administration is doing an excellent job, and should be allowed to carry on without unnecessary interference. The hard fact is that the City of Sydney is setting the pace when it comes to innovative contemporary governance and administration, as evidence in its creative policies to facilitate local development, address climate change and foster Sydney as a creative and business hub. The overwhelming majority of both the City’s resident and ratepayers are against the proposed amalgamation, which will simply produce a bloated behemoth to do the bidding of Macquarie Street, and run roughshod over the aspirations of the City’s residents.

There is no financial case for the amalgamation of the City of Sydney, with PricewaterhouseCoopers stating that the City of Sydney is “a benchmark against which other councils could be compared” and the NSW Government’s own Treasury Corporation rating the City’s finances as “strong” with a “positive outlook” – the only NSW Council to receive this rating.

Why disturb and dilute such a financially viable and popularly supported innovative Council with many “runs on the board” just to satisfy the power games of Macquarie Street?

By all means look at facilitating improved sharing of resources and service by local government areas, but do not invoke unnecessary changes and costly and disruptive amalgamations where they are clearly not required. While there may be some LGA’s warranting serious supervision and significant re-organization, the City of Sydney is certainly not one of them.

If the proposed “mega council” did happen to eventuate, it would be a blatantly political intervention foisted upon residents and ratepayers by a sadly out of touch NSW Government, and IPART must not let itself be party to such political, economic and social vandalism.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Brett Stevenson