

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 30 July 2015 11:57 AM
To: Local Government Mailbox
Cc: Sydney@parliament.com.au; manly@parliament.com.au
Subject: City of Sydney - Amalgamation submission against

Attention: Local Government Division

Dear officers,

City of Sydney

has unique issues to deal with

needs well-chosen and unique staff

with time to devote to research and innovation

should take a wider/longer view on its research, aims and plans

can create **Externalities for other councils**

has **major Public Good aspects**

Please take time to consider the arguments in detail and the re-summary at the end of this email.
Thank you for the opportunity to contribute.

Regards,
Chris Lee

1. I have lived in the current City of Sydney area for 27 years. So I am aware of certain of its enduring characteristics:

- is becoming busier and more crowded like international cities
- is therefore also becoming more expensive and causing poorer but long-term residents some cost-of-living stress
- has subsequent pollution and crowd and traffic and noise control problems
- is near beaches and harbour, galleries, opera house, museums that draw additional inflow of people
- beckons tourists
- beckons the homeless including teenagers
- has entrenched problems of drug, alcohol and mental illness
- attracts the attention of demonstrators. terrorists,
- has particular law and order and crime consequences

2. For me, the wonderful thing is that the councilors and mayors have fought - within this milieu - to achieve and retain the following:

- green spaces (big and small)
- a community/village individuality and 'feel'
- community consultation
- enabling less well-off to continue living in the area
- encouraging innovative art and other cultural activities (a draw card for visitors)
- a concern for the homeless
- innovative ideas, forward thinking and action on open spaces and traffic solutions
- unique crowd and event control
- unique coordination with police operations
- particular regard for humanistic responses to drug, alcohol, mental health issues and homelessness
- state of the art noise-nuisance laws

3. I think they achieve this by:

- community consultation
- employing research staff who are thorough, innovative and expert and fair in using correct methodology
- using a big-picture context that includes research on future issues and global experience
- including both experts and every-day residents and workers in consultation

List 1. makes City of Sydney DIFFERENT from other more suburban councils

List 2 makes Sydney an exemplary and forward-looking CITY OF THE WORLD that other cities can learn from

List 3 makes it possible for the city to achieve list 2 - and, I think, COULD NOT BE ACHIEVED if amalgamated with other councils - where the main duties of Councilors and staff would be to coordinate 'similar issues' - garbage, traffic, etc.

THAT IS: City of Sydney

has unique issues to deal with

needs well-chosen and unique staff

with time to devote to research and innovation

should take a wider/longer view on its research, aims and plans

because it takes a wider view on particular issues that affect other councils in a less-severe way,....

It's research and experiences act as a testing-ground and a source of ideas for other councils - ie

Externalities for other councils

has **major Public Good aspects** not only in it's solutions to entrenched social problems, but also in contributing to and creating an 'image' of Australia as a worthy citizen of the world - innovative,

forward thinking, caring. And therefore a member of the world community worthy to be listened to in public/political forums.