

**From:** David & Lorraine

**Sent:** Wednesday, 8 July 2015 10:28 AM

**To:** Local Government Mailbox

**Subject:** Fit For the Future-Forced Amalgamations of Council-City of Sydney

Dear Members-The Expert Advisory Panel

We are city dwellers and have been for some 14+ years. Prior to our shift into the city we lived for over 30 years on the Lower North Shore. We are now both retirees (self funded) and enjoy city living and all it has to offer.

We have looked long and hard at all the arguments for and against amalgamations and can only conclude that while amalgamations may be beneficial to some much smaller councils it has no real or intrinsic benefit for our City of Sydney council or its community. Overseas experience also supports this opinion. We believe that expanding the City of Sydney boundary again would result in significant costs to ratepayers while diluting the ability of the council to effectively support the unique mix of residents, workers, tourists and businesses that make up the City of Sydney area.

We speak from experience when we say we believe our City of Sydney council is well run, provides excellent amenities, is forward thinking, efficient and effective. The many occasions that have required us to deal with the City of Sydney council have proved to us that we can access the people we need to, that they are responsive and responsible. Of course we may not have always had the outcome we wanted but there has always been an acceptable resolution.

For the reasons outlined above we strongly oppose any **forced** amalgamation of our City of Sydney council.

Regards, David and Lorraine Sketch