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Date of submission: Thursday, 30 July 2015

Submission: As a resident of Strathfield since birth, I am totally against any forced merger of Strathfield council with any other council. SMC has always been in a strong financial position to maintain a high level of service to the community whilst keeping our rates to a reasonable level. The areas strong demand for properties by buyers is in part due to the good management of the council over many decades. A merger would only lead to increased rates, a drop in services and a softening in property values. Our community should not have to suffer because of the poor management of other councils.