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Submission: I have been a resident of "Sydney" for just under 40 years, during which time my area became part of the now defunct "South Sydney Council", changing its designation from "Redfern" to "Chippendale" and, most recently, "Darlington". Particularly in recent years, the management of the City of Sydney has been excellent under an independent team. It gives me some pride when travelling abroad to declare my City of Sydney as being run by independents, beholden to no party or interest group.

But more than pride, the team is efficient and whilst some actions are not in my self interest, I can see their value for other residents. Part of living in a city is the respect for diversity; in fact, I relish it.

But, I slide into the personal.

This is not surprising for unlike other levels of government, one takes personal pride and interest in one's Council and its activities. Such activities may not be on the grand financial or political scale of State and Commonwealth bodies, but they are the intimate, daily services and facilities one immediately experiences.

A local council is responsible for the immediate environment that one inhabits.

It is for that intimacy of government that I oppose the amalgamation - particularly the forced amalgamation - on the City of Sydney with any other body.

The City of Sydney already is "Fit for the Future" both in terms of its balance sheet and the balance with which it pursues local amenity goals. By all accounts and surveys, Sydney is set to grow larger still, and this growth will centre on the area currently comprising the City of Sydney Council. Population density is set to increase as a consequence and the Council has in its planning structures the need for further infrastructure to cope with such increases. These initiatives are clear in the Council minutes, as well as in press releases and informative community meetings.

The history of council amalgamations in Australia is a history of unnecessary expense and administrative failure. Centuries ago a philosophical historian wrote that those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it.

Many influences have come from the USA, including the phrase popularised by T.B. Lance in 1977: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it"

I suggest iPART might consider adopting such a phrase as its cautionary motto: concerned residents of the City of Sydney has done so already.