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Submission: Much of the focus on council amalgamations has been on efficiency and the scale needed to get this. There has been less on the need to support local identity and ensure that decisions that affect people are made by people who understand their circumstances.

I am particularly concerned about development: the record of state governments and of private developers is pretty dismal: insensitive developments, processes that are not transparent, and outcomes that do nothing to create interesting and vibrant communities.

Leichhardt Council has its faults, but it has been sensitive to local communities and their characteristics. I am concerned that we will lose this in any amalgamations.

I therefore suggest that existing boundaries be maintained, and other ways of gaining efficiencies (e.g. shared contracts for services across councils) be explored.