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Submission: I would like to register my support for Leichhardt Council remaining as a standalone council. This is primarily on the basis that the formation of much larger councils will inevitably be accompanied by a decrease in responsiveness to local needs and opinions, and less pressure for these to be taken into account when decisions are made that affect residents. Council employees who will have oversight over much larger areas will also lack the understanding that only comes with local knowledge.

I understand that in some areas there could be improved economies of scale. But those could be achieved through greater cooperation between the relevant departments, or even by setting up independent units to manage specific functions (such as garbage collection, road maintenance, etc) for a number of councils.