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Submission: I am a ratepayer in Leichhardt Council area and very much against amalgamation of my council with others to create a mega Council.

I don't believe amalgamation into a larger council will be cost saving or benefit me or the majority of other rate payers in my council. The costs incurred in setting up a new council will be extensive and unnecessary for ratepayers here because Leichhardt Council is the third most financially sustainable council based on NSW Treasury Corporation ranking, and independent research has shown we will be better off not amalgamating. Our council has submitted that it meets, or will meet all criteria for 'fit for the future' now or within five years and I believe them, because as a ratepayer I'm very satisfied in their performance and delivery of services and targets. I'm proud of my Council and of the position it takes on issues such as sustainable energy, mental health, and community care, to name a few. I'm very happy with the level of communication and service delivery.

What I do believe is that the process of amalgamation will cost ratepayers, and that even if our areas become amalgamated our interests will not. The proposed Inner West areas may be close but the range of population density and interest groups are disparate. I believe amalgamation will reduce our representation at a local government level and our individual interest groups which are unique to all the different suburbs around here will suffer because from this lack of representation.

It will not be a happy fit to try and merge the different councils. If a lower number of councillors have to spread themselves over a larger area it will be difficult to access them and they won't necessarily be well informed about my area.

The end result is we will pay more and have less say in what happens in our area.

I support Leichhardt's Council submission to stand alone and do not support amalgamation with other councils in the area.