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Submission: I am a ratepayer of Leichhardt Municipal Council for both my own home and an investment property. I support the council and have full confidence in its ability to meet all the 7 Fit for the Future benchmarks by 2015/16.

Like the majority of the local community, I am strongly opposed to any merger and support a stand-alone position for the council. I believe that Leichhardt residents and ratepayers would be better off and best served with the council remaining stand-alone.

I support each of the grounds outlined by Council in the executive summary of the Council Improvement Proposal submission, including most especially:

- The exemplary financial position of Leichhardt Council both now and in the future. In this regard, Council will meet all 7 Fit for the Future benchmarks in 2015/16. Council's superior financial performance has been independently confirmed by the NSW Government's own Treasury Corporation (TCorp), Morrison Low and in our recent modelling for the Long Term Financial Plan.
- Amalgamations won't provide for improved services largely because of the unsustainable financial position of the new merged council. In some cases, services might have to be reduced or a rate increase sought to maintain service standards.
- A loss of sense of identity and place in Leichhardt as it is merged with neighbouring Councils that do not share a similar sense of community (i.e. no shared community of interest).