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Submission: I have lived in the Leichhardt council catchment area for six years, and I have always been pleased with the way the council and its services have been run. Too often I believe only the negative things are reported and focused on and the positive things are overlooked and merely taken for granted.

I believe that part of the reason the area I live in is so nice is that the council runs things so well and listens to the community that it serves. Two examples of council run services that I have used regularly are the Balmain library and the Balmain occasional child day care. Both are exceptionally well run, and obviously well funded.

I am deeply concerned about the proposed merger, I can not see how this is going to benefit people in the Leichhardt area. I think the proposed amalgamation is far too large and if something isn't broken why fix it?

I cannot imagine feeling personally represented by such a large council in the same way that I do now. I do feel that I currently have a voice and I fear this will be taken away from me.

I am totally opposed to the amalgamation plans and believe Leichhardt council should be left as a stand alone council. I have absolute faith that it will meet the fit for the future criteria, without the merger.