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Submission: I am writing to protest about the proposed amalgamation of the City of Sydney with other suburban councils. The City of Sydney has already proven itself that it is 'Fit for the Future'. The State Government spent money on Local Government Review that was tabled, only to then ignore its findings and refer the amalgamation issue to IPART. Council spent many hours and time on making its submission, to find that it then had to justify its existence to IPART in a very short time frame. This change can only be perceived as a political stratagem. Thus it caused great concern and diverted Council officers from the core business of administration. It is apparent to everyone that the thrust changed from voluntary amalgamations to forced amalgamations.

I do not have to list all the achievements of City of Sydney over past 11 years as they have most adequately been tabled in its submission, that you and your colleagues have read. As a resident who has lived in Glebe for 25 years, I have seen the value of the work and time that City of Sydney has afforded both residents and businesses. I am proud to say we have a council that is strategic, financial and responsive. I work with several groups in the Glebe community as a volunteer. It is widely known in our community, how residents have benefited from consultation and projects that the City has carried out. If the City of Sydney was to be increased in size, the residents would lose that valuable connection.

Surveys conducted within the LGA have adequately demonstrated that the status quo remains and the Government allows City of Sydney to continue with its effective management. I have not seen any evidence that suggest that 'bigger is better'.

Jan Wilson

