

Author name: K. Vance

Date of submission: Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Submission:

I am concerned about the proposed merge with Auburn council, which I first read about in the newspaper. I had previously understood that Burwood Council was not wanting to proceed with this merger and was happy with this decision to be stand alone, as our neighbour Strathfield council have sensibly decided.

I would be supportive if merger was required to align with Strathfield and Canada Bay, both of which we share boundaries with and similar heritage values, demographics and cultural diversity. Built heritage and conservation are values I am very concerned may be lost through this proposed merger - I believe Burwood councils motto of "Progress, heritage and Pride" needs to be valued and upheld.

I cannot see any benefit for Burwood in joining with Auburn council, and am certainly concerned that we will incur additional debt through amalgamating with Auburn considering the difference in population density and community assets of Burwood as compared to Auburn.

I currently feel enabled to participate in my local council, attending council meetings when issues concern me, and value the access I have to local councillors. I believe I would loose access and representation if Burwood is merged into a larger council, especially one that is significantly out of 'my' area.

I feel that Burwood has a much greater affinity with Inner west suburbs such as Ashfield and Marrickville than Auburn. I am concerned this proposed merger could also result in loss of State and Federal Representation if this merger proceeds because it would span different regions and electorates. This could result in conflicts of interest around service delivery and strategic planning for Burwood.