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Submission: The long term credibility of IPART requires that it undertake its tasks in a professional manner free from vested interests. Individuals in society need to be given the task of selecting the organisational arrangements rather than those arrangements being set by political interests. Leichhardt Council provides for individuals to make input into its decision-making. The West Tigers redevelopment and the White Bay cruise ship facility were imposed upon local residents by State Government. Amalgamating Leichhardt Council with other LGAs would dilute the representation of local residents in State Government imposed development projects.

The Bays Precinct project has considerable impacts which may be imposed on local residents. Handing LGA powers to a remote local government body would dilute representation of local residents and enable the State Government to do what it chooses with this type of development. For this reason, Leichhardt should remain a separate Council. The financial arguments claimed by the proponents do not include externalities and are therefore superficial and should be ignored.