

Author name: M. OHare

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Submission: I have previously owned a property and lived in a town in Queensland (Port Douglas) that had been amalgamated with a number of others to form a larger area under Cairns council. I can say from first hand experience that it was a dreadful move.

The town became unkempt to the point of dereliction, requests or submissions went unanswered, the Council was too big and unwieldy to deal with any problems promptly or fully. Tourism went down, businesses folded up, rates weren't paid etc etc.

I'm so pleased to say that last year the decision was overturned and Port Douglas returned to having it's own local council. It's now well on the way to becoming a thriving area once again.

In my experience, Sydney City is, and has been since I moved here 10 years ago, run excellently and I don't want to see any changes.