

**From:** Maria Soria [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 21 July 2015 3:20 PM  
**To:** IPART Mailbox  
**Subject:** Proposed council amalgamations - Leichhardt Council.

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to make a submission regarding the proposed council amalgamations. I want Leichhardt Council to remain a stand-alone council. I feel proud to live in Leichhardt for the past 30 years. I have found Leichhardt Council to be an open, honest, competent and accessible council. Compare this to the behaviour of some other dodgy, incompetent and dysfunctional councils and Leichhardt Council is exemplary and a lesson in how councils should be run. I am very happy with the way Leichhardt Council looks after its ratepayers. So far, concerns that I have had have been quickly addressed. Local knowledge is so important – a mega council would lose sight of what's important to a local community. A mega council would be inclined to be influenced by developers and other better resourced lobby groups. Amalgamations won't provide for improved services largely because of the unsustainable financial position of the new merged council. There will be a loss of sense of identity and place in Leichhardt as it is merged with neighbouring councils that do not share a similar sense of community. There will also be a loss of representation in local government matters as it will be much harder for the community to effectively engage with councillors. These are just some of the reasons I want Leichhardt Council to remain a stand-alone council.

Yours faithfully  
Maria Soria

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