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Submission: I strongly don't agree that the local councils should be amalgamated into one mega-council for many reasons, some are listed here:

With such a big area to service there would be no way to keep the individuality of the different areas that currently have their own "personalities" and quirks. By amalgamating these areas into one, rules would be applied the same way to all areas including any urban designs and streetscapes which would become standardised throughout the mega-council for "cost and convenience". As a result, they would all end up looking the same.

This would also put many of the various companies currently servicing the different councils out of business, as they currently use different suppliers for each district and not just one. Something which would most likely change with the merger.

There would also be increased residential and business rates, reduced local representation and local identity. Also building approval application times may take longer to process.

Mega councils will make it incredibly hard for grass roots local representation and locally-targeted services, reducing access to decision makers and opportunity to contribute to policies and plans. Individuals or small community groups with concerns about proposed building projects/renovation approvals/streetscapes etc. would no longer have easy access to have their concerns considered or acted upon.

Councils can provide services targeted to local needs, which, in the inner city, includes managing the impacts of homelessness, the 'late-night economy' and the impacts, such as noise, traffic and parking, of large numbers of people concentrated into small areas. I feel that this would be lost in the mix of the other issues the mega-council will have to deal with.

Finally the cost of the amalgamation would be huge and no guarantee it will save the Government anything in the long run and many people will also become unemployed as a result. There would also be huge delays and disruption with existing services.