

Author name: N. ODwyer

Date of submission: Friday, July 31, 2015

Submission: I support Leichhardt Council and have confidence in its ability to stand alone.

- It can meet all of the Fit for the Future benchmarks within 5 years, while the proposed inner west mega council cannot meet them in 5 or 10 years time.
- It is financially sustainable now and into the future. The Department of Local Government's Your Council report shows it is the third most sustainable council in the Sydney metro area.
- Bigger isn't better – the biggest councils in Sydney were all placed near the bottom of the list of Sydney metro councils for financial sustainability. There has been no convincing evidence presented in all of this process that bigger councils deliver better services at lower cost in the long run - it simply comes down to good or poor management in existing structures.
- I wish to protect our local identity, local representation and accountability. In a larger council, the election process will be dominated by the major political parties and it will far more difficult for independents and minor parties to be elected.