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Submission: I support the City of Sydney position that it should not be amalgamated with neighbouring councils.

The City has performed well for our communities over the last ten years; we have one of the most sustainable councils, the City understands the unique needs of our different ‘villages’ and already has a huge population.

The needs of the premier CBD in Australia and the needs of inner city residents are different from those in the proposed catchment area. One size will not fit all; therefore, we won’t achieve economies of scale. (In fact, a recent review by Randwick City Council identified that benefits from amalgamation would be marginal.)

Our city council is financially robust but that hasn’t been without careful management.

The sheer cost of amalgamation puts our finances at risk – for no demonstrated return on productivity or better services. An amalgamation would be unnecessarily disruptive at a time when business needs certainty, given the issues with Europe and China. Amalgamation is a high-stakes play; we’d be putting hundreds of millions at risk.

I urge you to consider the City of Sydney’s position and support its stand-alone status.

Thank you

Patricia Arnott