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Submission: The City of Sydney council is undoubtedly "Fit for the Future" both financially and in terms of its resources, its processes (both internally and with its community engagement), and its well established and community supported development plans for the future.

It should not be forced to amalgamate with the councils of the eastern suburbs (which I understand is the aim of the current State Government for purely political motives) for the following reasons:

1. The disruption involved in amalgamations is significant and costly. Its forced amalgamation with South Sydney council years ago (again initiated for political reasons by the governing party of the day) created four years of disruption and additional cost for little benefit; and that was a single council. Endeavouring to wrap up three or four councils together would create an even greater disruption that might take decades to work through and cause enormous waste.
2. The nature of the area embraced by the City of Sydney council is significantly different from that of the Eastern suburbs in its housing density, its role as the commercial hub of the State (if not the whole nation), its daily influx of around a million workers and visitors , its position as an iconic international tourism destination, and its well earned status as a world leader in creating an environmentally sustainable, low carbon global city.

I am a ratepayer in both the City of Sydney and in a Mid North Coast council and can attest to the dire situation of regional and rural councils which have a much older population demographic, high unemployment rates and high levels of welfare dependency, all of which result in insufficient rates revenue to councils, making it impossible to provide even the most basic level of service, let alone afford the maintenance of mega-miles of roads. In at least some of these rural and regional councils the benefits of amalgamation may well exceed the costs and inevitable disruption of services involved. That certainly does not apply to the City of Sydney which in no way can be considered as just another municipal council. It is in fact a proxy for the State of NSW and Australia in the eyes of the international community, should be recognised as such and excluded from and consideration of taking on the burden of propping up other councils in one of the more affluent regions of the Greater Sydney Metropolitan area.