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Submission: Leichhardt Council has my full confidence to manage the affairs of its ratepayers.

I am strongly opposed to any forced amalgamation with another council.

I have personally been involved in a forced amalgamation of a Queensland council and the utter disaster which that proved to the huge disadvantage of the council forced into the amalgamation. This disadvantage proved to be of such magnitude that the council of which I was ratepayer mounted a de-amalgamation process which proved successful.

While the present proposal is not totally analagous, it does illustrate the hazards of the "bigger is better" approach as witness the fact that the biggest councils in Sydney are all placed near the bottom of the list of Sydney metro councils for financial sustainability.

Leichhardt Council is a highly competent Council, managing ratepayers' interests efficiently, promptly and financially satisfactorily.

I am confident that their assurance to meet all of the Fit for the Future benchmarks within five years is attainable while the proposed inner west mega council will not be able to meet them in five or ten years time.

They are financially sustainable now and into the future. The Department of Local Government's Your Council report shows them to be the third most sustainable council in the Sydney metro area.

They are highly successful in protecting our local identity, our local representation and accountability. This emphasis on the local aspect will inevitably be lost in an amalgamation into a mega council.

I have the fullest confidence in the present Council and am totally opposed to any amalgamation.

I urge that any plans for amalgamation into a larger inner west Council be abandoned.